明日の王様

谷地恵美子

集英社文庫

明日の王様

2.

UNIT 8 4

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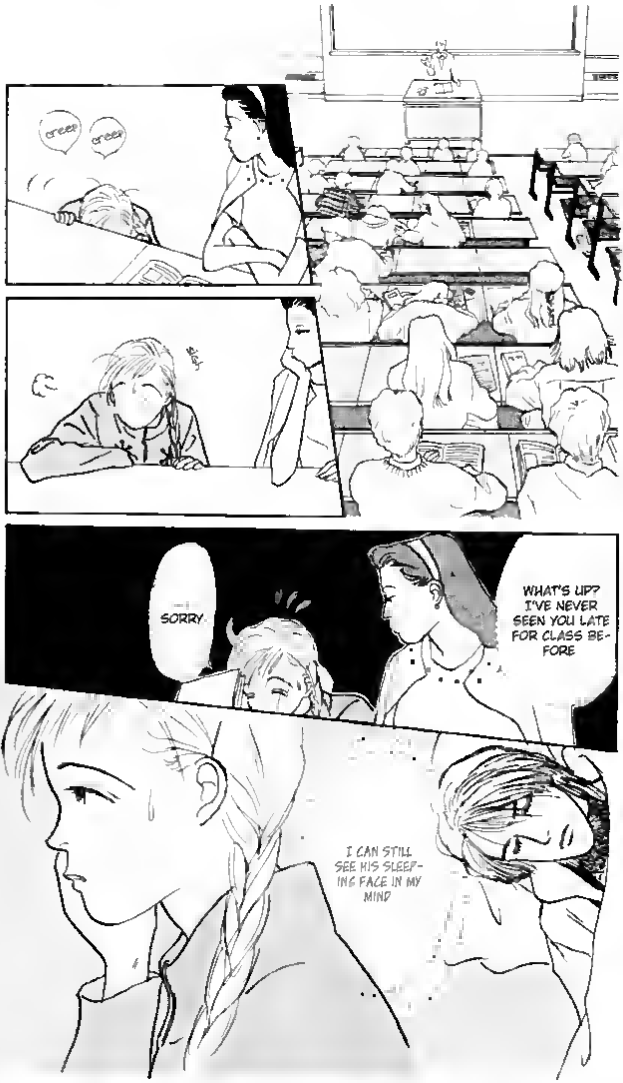
明日の王様②
UNIT 8
谷地恵美子


creak
creak
SORRY
WHAT'S UP? I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU LATE FOR CLASS BEFORE
I CAN STILL SEE HIS SLEEPING FACE IN MY MIND

SASAYA-SAN, YOU'VE CHANGED LATELY
EH? ME?
Stare
OH, YOU THINK SO?
THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE
Real easy on the eyes.
YEAH, BUT
DON'T YOU THINK SHE LOOKS REALLY REFRESHING LATELY?
WE WANT SASAYA TO COME WITH US
WHAT'RE YOU THINKING? DIDN'T YOU SO LABEL HER A HOPELESS COUNTRY GIRL BEFORE?
Mari

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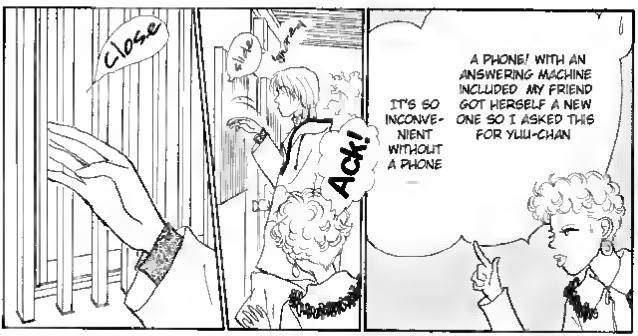
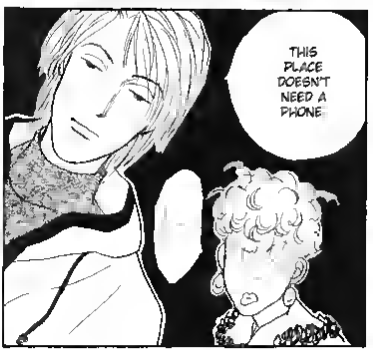
IT MUST BE MAKI-SAN'S DOING.
HER PART-TIME JOB IS IN THE FASHION BUSINESS, SO SHE ALWAYS PASSES ME SOME OFF-SEASON OR OVERSTOCK ITEMS.
LIKE THIS SWEATER
♪
SASAYA
OH,
Open
!

lock lock
Oh, what's your name?
AH... I'M TOO LATE
I SHOULD HAVE LEFT EARLIER
AH EH?
ERM... ISN'T THIS SASAYA YUU-SAN'S APART-MENT...?
SHE'S ALREADY LEFT FOR SCHOOL
YOU KNOW ME?
WAIT! AREN'T YOU ICHI... ICHI! TOUYA-KUN?
IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO AFTER SHE LET ME SPEND A NIGHT HERE.
"PLEASE LOCK THE DOOR WHEN YOU LEAVE." THAT'S WHAT SHE WROTE
HOW COULD I NOT?
I'M IN THE THEATER CIRCLE TOO
BUT... WHY IS ICHI! TOUYA COMING OUT OF YUU-CHAN'S ROOM AND EVEN LOCKING IT?
WH---
WHAT!?
!
DON'T TELL ME YOU GUYS
My God

A BOMB?
DON'T MAKE ME COME ALL THE WAY FOR NOTHING BUT THIS INSIDE PLEASE.
WAIT A MINUTE, SINCE YOU HAVE THE KEY,


CLOSE
SLIDE
Ack!
IT'S SO INCONVENIENT WITHOUT A PHONE
A PHONE! WITH AN ANSWERING MACHINE INCLUDED MY FRIEND GOT HERSELF A NEW ONE SO I ASKED THIS FOR YUU-CHAN

HELLO?
YOU MAY KEEP COMING BUT IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE


THIS PLACE DOESN'T NEED A PHONE.

OH! AND SHIMAMURA-SAN, PLEASE CONVINCE TOUYA THAT
HE COULD DO MUCH BETTER IN LEAVING THAT 'ELOQUENCE-SOMETHING' COMPANY.
I TOLD YOU! TOUYA ISN'T HERE
BUT HE MUST HAVE BEEN HERE
WHENEVER TOUYA HAS SOMETHING IN HIS MIND, HE ALWAYS SEEKS SHIMAMURA-SAN
WHAT A NAZI TROUPE
NEVER ALLOWS THEIR MEMBERS TO DO ANYTHING OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL AT ALL.
SHIMAMURA-SAN KNOWS THAT, RIGHT?
ALL TV-DRAMA OFFERS FOR TOUYA WERE KILLED-THEY EVEN DENIED HIM A COMMERCIAL SPOT.
WHAT BULLSHIT IS THAT?
WHAT KIND OF TROUPE SEES THEMSELVES SO HIGHLY THEY DON'T TAKE SPECIAL CARE OF A VALUABLE ASSET LIKE "ICHII TOUYA".
HE WON'T HAVE A FUTURE STICKING BY A COMPANY LIKE HTAT
HOW CAN HE EVER MAKE A NAME OF HIS OWN?

THEATER-FREAK!
YOU'RE NO DIF-FERENT!
I'VE NO SAY IN THIS MATTER.
IT'S HIS DECISION TO MAKE
THAT'S WHY I'M COUNTING ON SHIMAMURA-SAN TO TALK SOME SENSE INTO HIM.
SEVERAL TIMES-!
I DID!
TELL THAT TO TOUYA
WHAT'S SO WRONG WITH TELEVISION ANYWAY!? A STAGE PLAY, NO MATTER HOW FANTASTIC CAN ONLY REACH HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE. THE NUMBERS OF VIEWERS ARE DIFFERENT NUMBERS!
Another penniless troop member
Hmph!
HMPH! SO YOU'RE ANOTHER LACKY OF SHIMAMURA-SAN?
IF YOU SEE TOUYA, TELL HIM I'M LOOKING FOR HIM.
SHIMA-MURA-SAN!
YESTE-RDAY?
HI... THANK YOU FOR YESTER-DAY.
AT... TOUYA-SAN'S PLACE...

Bam
CHIEF, ISN'T THAT 'KINA' THE MODEL?
Oh, you.
YOU KNOW HER?
YES. I MET HER YESTERDAY.
SHE SEEMS TO CARE FOR TOUYA-SAN A GREAT DEAL.
"CARE," YOU SAY?
I THINK SHE'S TRYING TO DO EVERYTHING TO MAKE TOUYA FAMOUS.

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FAMOUS?
YES
TOUYA-SAN COULD DEFINITELY DO THAT
NO MATTER HOW BIG THE STAGE PLAY IS...
AND ONCE THEY MAKE A NAME ON THE SCREEN,
MANY ACTORS DO BOTH STAGE AND SCREEN

BUT IF TOMYA-SAN ACTUALLY BECOMES A CELEBRITY...
IT'D BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO BE ON THE SAME STAGE WITH HIM
HEY!
Flap
Flap
THE DREAM IS FLOATING OUT OF MY REACH

HERE! TAKE THIS
EH?
WHAT'S THAT?
YES?
OH!?
WEREN'T YOU LISTENING?
Thus proving you really didn't listen to anything I said.
A ROUGH PLOT OF A DRAMA MAKE THIS INTO A SCRIPT FOR A 45-MINUTE STAGE PLAY
!!
ME!!?

TAN: "GANBATTE" = "DO YOUR BEST," "GO FOR IT." A PHRASE OF ENCOURAGEMENT.

!!
THREE DAYS!?
A PLAY THIS SHORT SHOULDN'T TAKE MORE THAN THREE DAYS. GIVE IT TO ME ON FRIDAY, THEN GANBATTE.
Please tell me you're kidding.
C...CHIEF THIS IS A LITTLE TOO SUDDEN...
BYE
CHIEF...
CHIEF SHIMAMURA

CM 大好きっ！

さいきん

テレビを あまり みてないので よく わからない

のであった。

好きなCM たしかあったはずなのに 忘れてもた

※コノ まんが ヲ アニー掲載時ノ ものです

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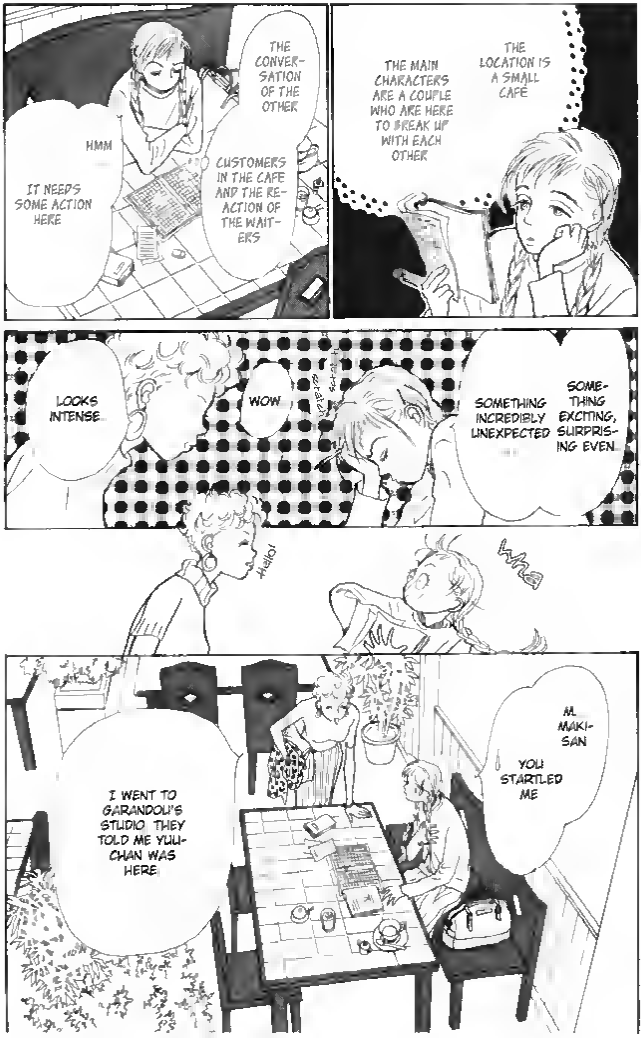
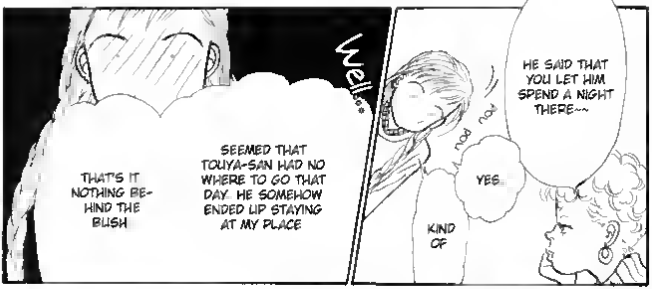
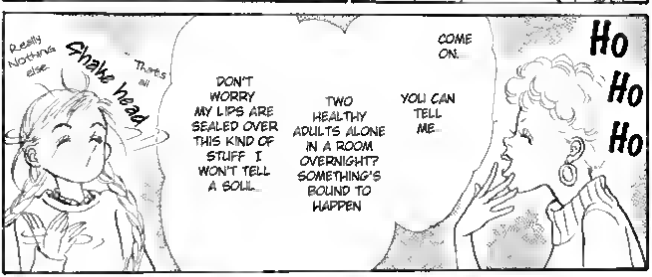
WATCH ME!
Just thinking that makes my blood boil!
Unbelievable!
Amaze-ll
and dazzle Chief to the core.
I'll write a play so fantastic
The first step toward my dream of creating a stage play of my own.
Most of all, Granny, this is another of my very first new steps.
I won't give up.

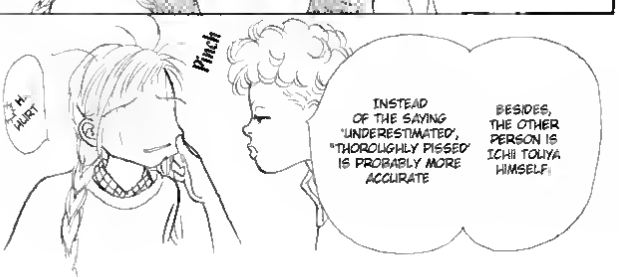

THE CONVERSATION OF THE OTHER CUSTOMERS IN THE CAFE AND THE REACTION OF THE WAITERS
HMM
IT NEEDS SOME ACTION HERE
THE LOCATION IS A SMALL CAFE
THE MAIN CHARACTERS ARE A COUPLE WHO ARE HERE TO BREAK UP WITH EACH OTHER
SOMETHING EXCITING, SURPRISING EVEN
SOMETHING INCREDIBLY UNEXPECTED
WOW
LOOKS INTENSE
Hello!
M. MAKI-SAN
YOU STARTLED ME
I WENT TO GARANDOU'S STUDIO. THEY TOLD ME YUU-CHAN WAS HERE.

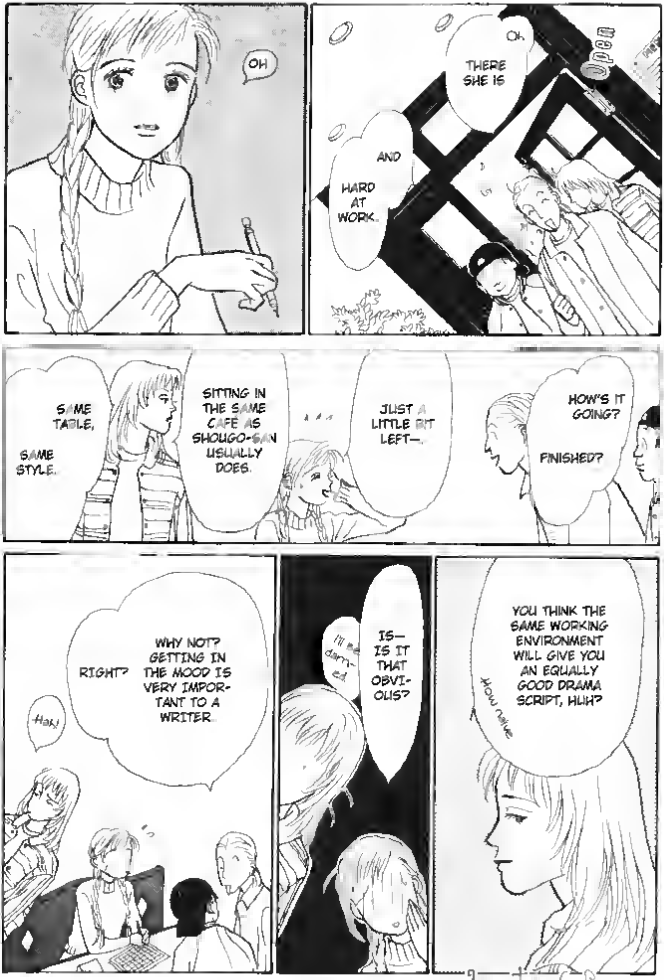
?
WHAT AM I TO DO, I WONDER?
WHY?
N NOTHING THAT SPECIAL I'M JUST GIVING IT A TRY
I HEARD YOU'RE WRITING A PLAY WAY TO GO!
HUH!
Who said that sort of thing?
BUT A "CERTAIN SOMEONE" TURNED ME DOWN FLAT SAYING YUU-CHAN'S HOUSE DOESN'T NEED A PHONE
EH!?
REALLY?
I'VE GOT A FREE PHONE FROM MY FRIEND. SHE ISN'T USING IT ANYMORE SO I THOUGHT I'D PASS IT TO YUU-CHAN
AH.
OH... I ACCIDENTALLY RAN INTO HIM A FEW DAYS AGO COMING OUT OF YUU-CHAN'S ROOM. YOU KNOW, THE ACTOR, ICHII TOUYA-KUN.


Well...
THAT'S IT NOTHING BEHIND THE BUSH
SEEMED THAT TOUYA-SAN HAD NO WHERE TO GO THAT DAY. HE SOMEHOW ENDED UP STAYING AT MY PLACE
nod nod
YES.
KIND OF
HE SAID THAT YOU LET HIM SPEND A NIGHT THERE~~


Really Nothing else
Shake head
That's all
DON'T WORRY MY LIPS ARE SEALED OVER THIS KIND OF STUFF. I WON'T TELL A SOUL.
TWO HEALTHY ADULTS ALONE IN A ROOM OVERNIGHT? SOMETHING'S BOUND TO HAPPEN
YOU CAN TELL ME.
COME ON.
Ho Ho Ho

Shake head
You're reading too much into it
MY, MY... YUU-CHAN, YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING. I UNDERESTIMATED YOU
EVEN HOW NATURAL IT MIGHT BE
BUT YES... OF COURSE, I WAS ASTONISHED


Pinch
...H, HURT
INSTEAD OF THE SAYING 'UNDERESTIMATED', "THOROUGHLY PISSED' IS PROBABLY MORE ACCURATE
BESIDES, THE OTHER PERSON IS ICHI TOUYA HIMSELF!


OH
OH, THERE SHE IS
AND HARD AT WORK.
SAME TABLE, SAME STYLE.
SITTING IN THE SAME CAFE AS SHOUGO-SAN USUALLY DOES.
JUST A LITTLE BIT LEFT—.
HOW'S IT GOING?
FINISHED?
YOU THINK THE SAME WORKING ENVIRONMENT WILL GIVE YOU AN EQUALLY GOOD DRAMA SCRIPT, HUH?
HOW RUDE
IS— IS IT THAT OBVIOUS?
WHY NOT? GETTING IN THE MOOD IS VERY IMPORTANT TO A WRITER.
RIGHT?
HA!

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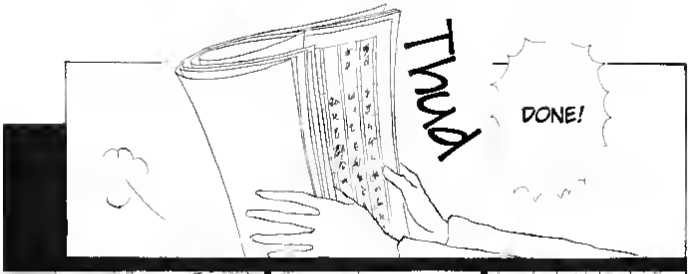
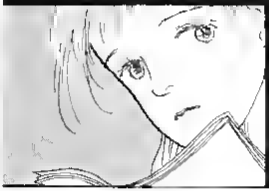
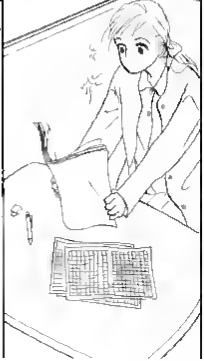
You can do it!


Thud
DONE!



HMM... I THINK IT'S NOT BAD MYSELF.

FINAL-LY.



R R R R R R R
501
ICHII
Hmmp
Hmmp
Thump
OH.
YUU-CHAN?
YUP!
JUST WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW I HAVE A PHONE NOW.
AS I THOUGHT HE ISN'T HOME.
NO!! NII-CHAN YOU USED MY TOWEL!?
Sang
HONEY! THE BATH IS READY!
I KNOW I KNOW.
YES
I SEE I SEE
I'M FINE.
HOW ABOUT YOU, DAD?

click
OK. SAY HI TO EVERYONE FOR ME. GOOD NIGHT.
SORRY YUU I'LL CALL YOU BACK LATER..
A TELEPHONE IS SO STRANGE
IT CAN CONNECT YOU TO ANYONE AT ANY TIME
BUT WHY
DOES IT MAKE YOU FEEL LONELY

Bam
"THIS IS HOW HE'D OPEN A SCENE " AND YOU KNOW MY MIND SO WELL!?
YOU THINK "THIS IS HOW SHIMAMURA SHOUGO WOULD WRITE A DIALOGUE "
HUH?
WHO TOLD YOU TO IMITATE ME?
WHERE IS "SASAYA YUU" IN THIS SCRIPT!?
THIS IS FOR A REAL PRODUCTION NOT A CHILD'S PLAY!!
GO BACK AND REDO IT!! BE YOURSELF!

NONE!
turn
HM
ANYTHING GOOD IN THIS SCRIPT AT ALL?
ISN'T THERE
I'M CRUSHED
I'LL WRITE A SCRIPT EVEN THAT HARDHEADED CHIEF CAN'T HELP BUT ACKNOWLEDGE!
I'LL WRITE A NEW ONE WATCH ME!

I... I WON'T GIVE UP
DO IT AGAIN!
BECAUSE I WANT SOMEONE TO SAY THIS LINE AFTER THIS
LET'S TAKE A LOOK HERE. WHY DO WE NEED THIS SALARYMAN COMING IN?
THAT OLD? AND YOU WANT HIM TO START TALKING ABOUT A PRINT CLUB*?
ABOUT 45 YEARS OLD.
AND HOW OLD IS THIS SALARYMAN OF YOURS?

(T/N : *PRINT CLUB = JAPAN'S PHOTO STICKER FAD)

I SEE
AH YES
THIS CUSTOMER'S DIALOGUE, TOO. FLAT AND BORING AS HELL
THE CHARACTERS I WROTE. THEY'RE UNREAL
FINALLY I'VE REALIZED
I NEED TO BRING THEM AND THEIR DIALOGUE TO LIFE

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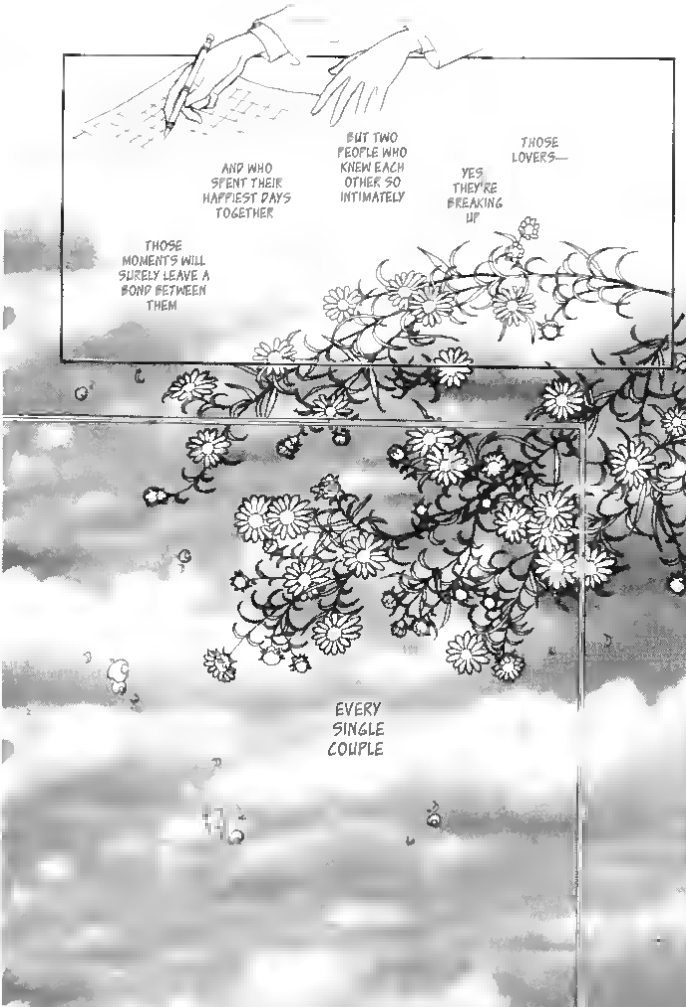
EVEN THEY MUST HAVE HAD SOME SWEET MOMENTS IN THE PAST
THAT COUPLE WHO IS ABOUT TO PART FOR SEPARATE WAYS...
WHY DO YOU THINK THESE TWO ARE BREAKING UP!?
BECAUSE ...!!
THE GUY WENT OUT WITH A NEW GIRLFRIEND
SO THE GIRL CAN'T STAND IT...
HUH?
REDO IT!

WHY DO PEOPLE BREAK UP WITH THE ONES THEY LOVE?
teared up


THOSE LOVERS—
YES. THEY'RE BREAKING UP
BUT TWO PEOPLE WHO KNEW EACH OTHER SO INTIMATELY
AND WHO SPENT THEIR HAPPIEST DAYS TOGETHER
THOSE MOMENTS WILL SURELY LEAVE A BOND BETWEEN THEM
EVERY SINGLE COUPLE

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Oh. She published it
Hmm
THEY'RE GOING TO ACT THE PLAY I WROTE
Excited
Excited
Thump
Thump
AH
GRANNY, MY FIRST STEP

NO
THE SCRIPTED DIALOGUE SOUNDS SO UNREALISTIC
WHY?
THEIR ACTING IS JUST FINE
BUT WHY!?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?
WHAT I SEE OF THE SCENE IN MY HEAD
DOESN'T MATCH THE ACTORS MOVEMENTS
THE TIMING IS TOTALLY OFF!!
GOT IT?

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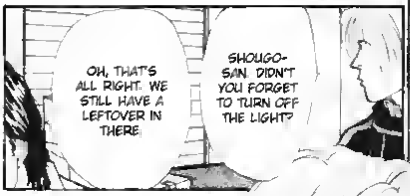
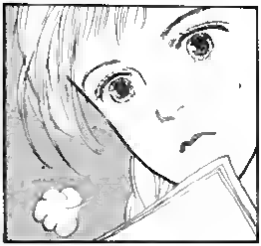
AND CHOP THIS WHOLE PART OUT, THAT'LL MAKE IT MORE CONCISE...
IF I REARRANGE THE ORDER HERE—
AND THIS SHOULD BE...
THE DIALOGUE THAT I THOUGHT WAS NATURAL ENDED UP TOO WORDY AND DRAGGING
I'LL FIX IT RIGHT NOW!
PLEASE GIVE ME MORE TIME
flap
LEAVE HER.
YUU-CHAN!
YUU-CHAN!
EVERYONE'S LEAVING!
murmur
murmur
murmur
YUU-CHAN WAS REALLY INTO IT.
HEY! LOCK THE DOOR WHEN YOU GO OUT
scratch
scratch
scratch
I SKIMMED THROUGH IT A LITTLE. IT DIDN'T LOOK BAD AT ALL DON'T YOU THINK SO, MISORE-SAN?
HI!
bang

Just a saying.
Go back to your place.
WHAT WAS THAT?

YO! THE MAN ON THE WANTED POSTER
HOW LUCKY.
I COULDN'T FIND YOU AT YOUR APARTMENT SO I THOUGHT YOU MUST BE HERE.


OH, THAT'S ALL RIGHT. WE STILL HAVE A LEFTOVER IN THERE.
SHOUGO-SAN, DIDN'T YOU FORGET TO TURN OFF THE LIGHT?

A LEFTOVER?



HOPEFULLY THE TIMING WILL BE MORE NATURAL THAN THE LAST TIME...
HERE.
WHAT DO I DO?

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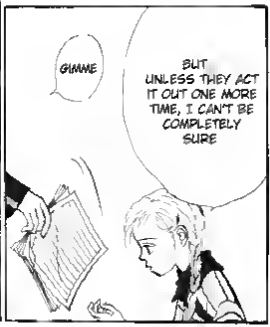

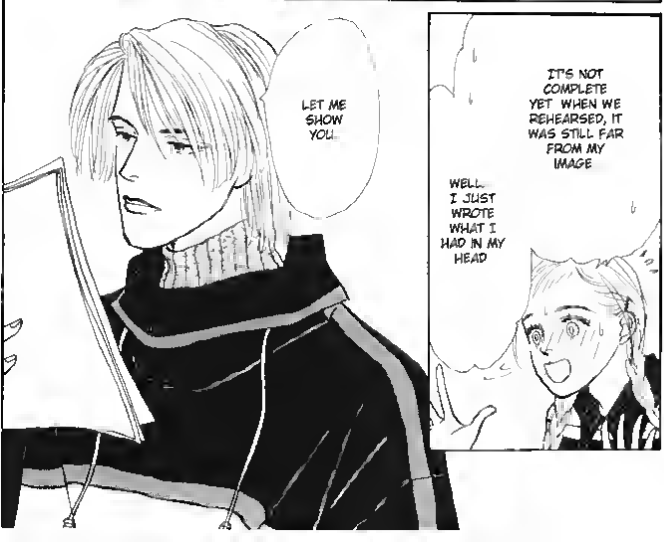

Huh!?
Just sit.
That's all I'm asking.
SIT DOWN
YOU'LL PLAY THE GIRL

Stare.
THE PERSON TOUYA-SAN IS WATCHING WITH THE EYES OF LOVE IS -
HIS LOVER IN THE PLAY
GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF YUU!
IT'S JUST ACTING

" NOW WHAT? "
" YOU SAID WE NEEDED TO TALK. "
" LET'S HEAR IT. "

" THE TWO OF US, WHEN DID WE BECOME LIKE THIS? "
THE...

THE CHARACTER I CREATED IS BEING BROUGHT TO LIFE BY AN ACTOR...
THE LINES FROM THOSE WORDS I WROTE HAVE TURNED INTO A REAL DIALOGUE
THE WORLD I CREATED
GRANNY, THIS IS
SUCH AN INCREDIBLE FEELING BEYOND ANY EXPRESSION!
END CHAPTER 8

HEY!
THIS IS THE PART WHERE YOU JERK YOUR HAND FROM MINE
Why are you clinging to my hand?
GRAB

Realize
Y-
YOU'RE RIGHT
Oh, just a little bit
WAS IT HELP-FUL?
THAT WAS MORE THAN ENOU-GH!
Let's go.
IT FINALLY LOOKS MORE LIKE A REAL PLAY
THANK YOU SO MUCH
here and here
BUT... DIDN'T SHOUGO-SAN SAY ANYTHING AT ALL?
YOU'LL PROBABLY NEED TO REVISE THIS SCRIPT AGAIN ANYWAYS, YOU KNOW.
Huh?!!

NO MATTER HOW YOU PACE THE DIALOGUE THIS SCRIPT NEEDS AT LEAST AN HOUR
DIDN'T YOU SAY IT'S A 45-MINUTE DRAMA?
WH-
WHY!?
ISN'T IT GOOD ENOUGH?
PALE
I TOTALLY FORGOT THE TIME!
CRY

コンビニ大好きっ！

仕事中
以外は
ほとんど
毎日
行ってます

おかげで

「いらっしゃいませ」
ではなく

「こんにちは」
や
「こんばんは」
と

しゃべれてます

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YES?
YOU'VE PASSED.
PASS-ED?
YOU'VE COME THIS FAR. DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE THIS SCRIPT TURN INTO A REAL PLAY?
WELL...CAN'T SAY IT'S NEVER CROSSED MY MIND
LET ME SHOW YOU

LOOKS LIKE ONE-ACT PLAYS ARE THE THEME THIS YEAR. THEY'RE RECRUITING LOCAL TROUPES FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY TO DEBUT AT THE SAME TIME.
KITASAWA DRAMA FESTIVAL?
OH?
KITAZAWA
Kitasawa drama festival
WE AREN'T GONNA MAKE IT THIS YEAR ARE WE? SHIMAMURA-SAN IS CONTRACTED TO WRITE SCRIPTS FOR THIS AND THAT. WITH BOTH HANDS TIED UP, HE DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH FREE TIME
A GOOD SCRIPT
.....
DON'T YOU OVER-LOOK IT!
DID YOU FORGET THAT WE HAVE A GOOD SCRIPT RIGHT HERE READY TO BE BORN?

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A SOMEWHAT "BETTER-THAN-AVERAGE" SCRIPT ALONE DOESN'T MAKE A PLAY.
THE QUESTION HERE IS WHETHER SHOUGO-SAN CAN SPARE THE TIME TO DIRECT IT.
FRANK-LY SPEAK-ING, I'M TOO BUSY
BUT THERE'S SOMEONE MORE SUITABLE THAN ME ...
THE ONE WHO WROTE THE SCRIPT
C RA JH

"IMPOSSIBLE"? YOU PULLED ALL-NIGHTERS CRAFTING IT WITH SWEAT AND BLOOD. DON'T YOU WANT TO BRING IT TO LIFE?
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. I CAN'T POSSIBLY FILL YOUR SHOES!
CHIEF!?
NOT THAT I DON'T WANT TO, BUT...
WHEN YOU WERE WRITING THIS THING, IT WAS ALL SWIMMING IN YOUR HEAD, WASN'T IT?
YOU PUT TOGETHER THE SCRIPT BY JOTTING DOWN WHAT YOU "SAW" THE CHARACTERS SAY AND DO, DIDN'T YOU?
THEN THE NEXT STEP IS TO GET THE CAST TO ACT LIKE WHAT YOU PICTURED IN YOUR HEAD! YOU'LL HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT

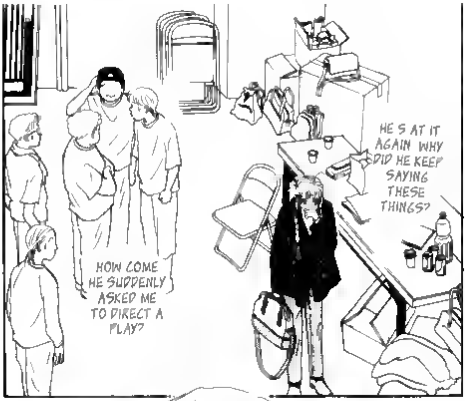
ARE YOU CRAZY?
SHOU-GO-SAN!
サクラ
THIS DRAMA FESTIVAL IS LIKE A CONTEST BETWEEN ACCLAIMED COMPANIES EVERYWHERE.
DURING THOSE THREE DAYS OF PERFORMANCE, THE AUDIENCE SIZE, THE WAY IT'S RECEIVED, THE CRITICS,
COMMENTS, ALL WILL BE JUDGED. ARE YOU GOING TO DESTROY GARANDOU'S HARD-EARNED REPUTATION?
YOU READ THE SCRIPT, RIGHT? WHAT DO YOU THINK?

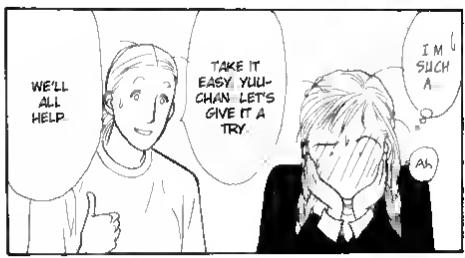
CHILD-ISH
IS MORE LIKE IT.
I, NO MATTER WHAT I DO, COULD NEVER WRITE LINES LIKE THESE
THIS IS THE WORK OF SOMEONE WHO STILL SEES THE PURITY OF LOVE.
CHILD-ISH?
YOU COULD SAY THAT
BUT ISN'T CHILDHOOD THE ONLY TIME WE CAN TASTE GENUINE HAPPI-NESS?
I'D LIKE THE AUDIENCE TO EXPERIENCE THAT FEEL-ING TOO

LET'S PUT IT LIKE THIS: SURELY YOU MUST REALIZE HOW AMAZING THIS SCRIPT IS
TWO LOVERS DISCUSS BREAK-ING UP
BUT AT THE END A STRANGE WISP OF HOPE HOVERS IN THE AIR.
CALL IT 'CHILDISH NA-IVETY', 'YUCKY FLUFF', OR WHATEVER.
BUT THIS THING DOESN'T NEED A REASON THIS THING THAT'S CALLED 'HAPPI-NESS'
WHAT KIND OF PRODUCTION WILL SASAYA YUU MAKE OUT OF THIS? I JUST CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IT!

夜店大好きっ！

おいらっち
夜店も
ひやかして
歩くの好きでふっ





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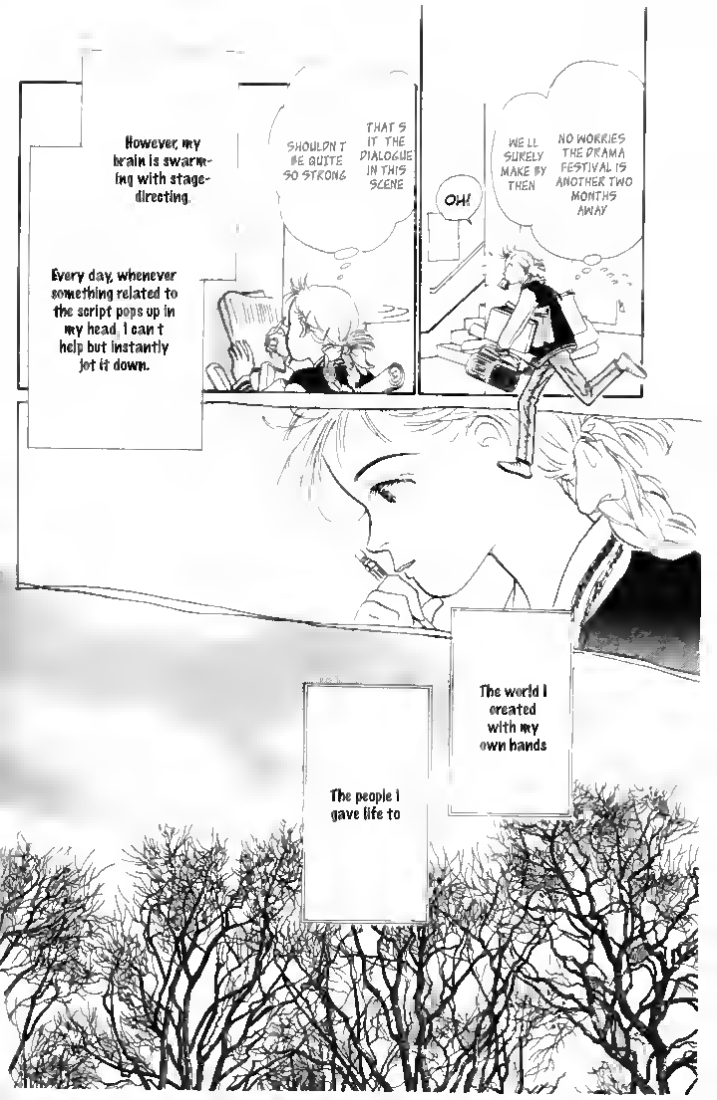
HEY, WE'RE HERE FOR YOU
I GUESS.
GUYS?
TAI-RA-SAN
OF COURSE
I MAY LACK EXPERI-ENCE
BUT EVERY-ONE HERE IS A SEASONED ACTOR
IF EVERY-ONE COOP-ERATES
We're pros!
Yeah
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

YOROSHIKU ONEIGAISHI MASU.
THAT'S WHY I NEED YOUR HELP. . YOU SEE, I'D REALLY APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD PICK OUT SOME COSTUMES FOR THE PLAY. BUT . . OUR BUDGET IS SMALL.
HEH ?
A DIRECTOR?
YOU ?
YOU HEARD IT RIGHT. CHIEF SUGGESTED IT HIMSELF. I HAVE NO IDEA HOW IT GOT TO THIS
Wanna see?
WE HAPPEN TO BE IN THE MIDDLE OF A GRAND SALE RIGHT NOW. LOTS OF CHEAP CLOTHES.
HAHA. NO PROBLEM. THE STYLES YOU WANT ISN'T ANYTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY, AREN'T THEY?

EH?
DON'T GIVE UP, YOU HEAR?
Erm
IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE ENCOURAGING?
Even if it comes out as a complete flop
JUST THINK THAT IT'S SASAYA YUU'S FIRST PRODUCTION SO IF IT FAILS OR WHATEVER IT'S ALL UP TO YOU...
I MEANT,
DON'T LOSE TO THOSE ACTORS
FIRST DRAMA SCRIPT
FIRST PRODUCTION DIRECTING...
THANK YOU THEN
You must know that
ABSOLUTELY

ISN'T 'GARANDOU' ABOUT TO OPEN ANOTHER PRODUCTION SOON?
EH?
SHIMAMURA SHOUGO SURE HAS THE GUTS TO DELEGATE
Yes it is, Granny.
In fact, in a couple of days Garandou will open a play. These days everyone is engrossed in rehearsals
while I'm swamped with miscellaneous works


However, my brain is swarming with stage-directing.
Every day, whenever something related to the script pops up in my head, I can't help but instantly jot it down.
SHOULDN'T BE QUITE SO STRONG
THAT'S IT. THE DIALOGUE IN THIS SCENE
OH!
WE'LL SURELY MAKE BY THEN
NO WORRIES. THE DRAMA FESTIVAL IS ANOTHER TWO MONTHS AWAY
The world I created with my own hands
The people I gave life to

It s such a wonderful feeling granny
Thinking about this
makes me forget all the weariness and the time that's gone by
Clap
clap
OK LET'S DO IT

Shimamu ra-san really is incred- ible
Even now I can t help but admire him
A view from another person s perspective can contribute such a distinctive difference

I know that the script itself is great
But when performed on stage I realized its full power
And that power became an enjoyable play
Those feelings and emotions
The joy of the actors,
The delight
Of the audience.
Ee

"WHO TOLD YOU TO COPY ME?"
I won't repeat the same mistakes
I'll release the full potential of Sasaya Yuu's power
into the world I created.
YOUR FACE LOOKS TERRIBLE

Oh, are they?
THE BAGS UNDER YOUR EYES ARE GETTING BIGGER EACH DAY
I HAVEN'T HAD MUCH TIME TO SLEEP LATELY...
BUT GARANDOU'S' PRODUCTION JUST ENDED YESTERDAY I'LL BE FINE NOW.
FROM NOW ON, I'LL HAVE ALL THE TIME FOR MYSELF
IT'S COMING RIGHT UP
I DON'T KNOW WHAT MAKES YOU SO GIDDY LATELY
'ELOQUENCE' IS HAVING A BIG PROBLEM AT THE MOMENT

Oh,
WHO'S THAT?
HE KNEW IT FULL WELL AND HE STILL ACCEPTED THE TV DRAMA OFFER
YOU KNOW, THAT COMPANY HAS AN IRON-CLAD RULE FOR ITS MEMBERS
PROBLEM...? WHAT'S WRONG?
DO you even have to ask!?
WHO ELSE!? ICHII TOUYA!!

PRIME FACTOR
THEM!
THOSE JERKS THAT ENVY HIM CAN'T WAIT TO KICK HIM OUT OF THE TROUPE
BUT HE'S ELOQUENCE'S GOLDEN-BOY ROOKIE, DARN IT!!
Gahh
I SEE KINA-SAN MUST HAVE TALKED HIM INTO IT

IF HE GETS MORE POPULAR, HE'LL BE TOTALLY OUT OF MY REACH. ALL I'LL BE ABLE TO DO IS ADMIRE HIM FROM AFAR
OF COURSE !!
W-WHY IS THAT?
OH BOY... WHAT IF TOUYA-SAN REALLY GOT SACKED!
YOSHISAWA-SAN, ARE YOU UNHAPPY THAT TOUYA-SAN WILL BE ON TV?
THEN HE WON'T EVER TALK TO ME AGAIN
BUT TELEVISION IS TOO SCARY SUDDENLY ONE CAN BECOME A STAR WITHOUT REALIZING IT
FOR BETTER OR WORSE, I GET TO SEE HIM IN PERSON. HE'S ACTUALLY THERE MY APPLAUSE, MY CHEERS CAN DIRECTLY REACH HIM!
A THEATER ACTOR IS THE BEST.
THAT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN
LOOKS LIKE I WON'T HAVE A CHANCE TO SEE HIM ON STAGE ANYMORE
OH NO.

NO MATTER HOW FAMOUS HE BECOMES, I DON'T BELIEVE THAT TOUYA-SAN WILL EVER QUIT THE STAGE
YOU DON'T GET IT, DO YOU? HE'LL NEVER FIND A TROUPE WHO WILL ACCEPT HIM AFTER HE'S FIRED FROM 'ELOQUENCE'.
IDIOT!
EVERYONE WOULD BE WHOOPING WITH JOY!
HE CAN BE WITH 'GARANDO U'!
Why the heck would he stoop so low to such a tiny troupe!?
Incredible!

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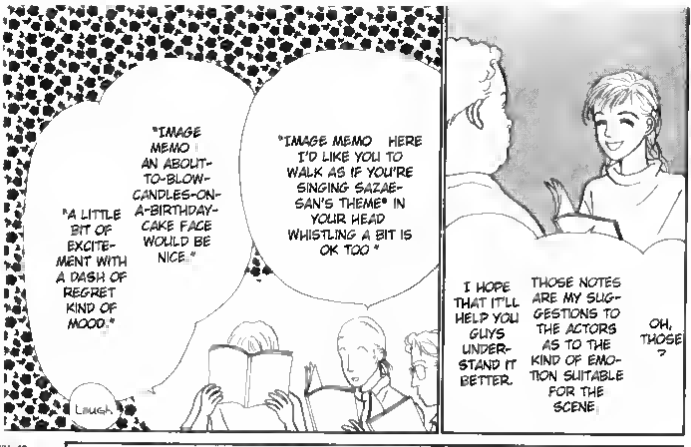
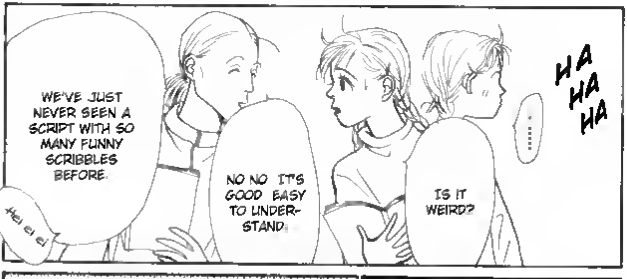
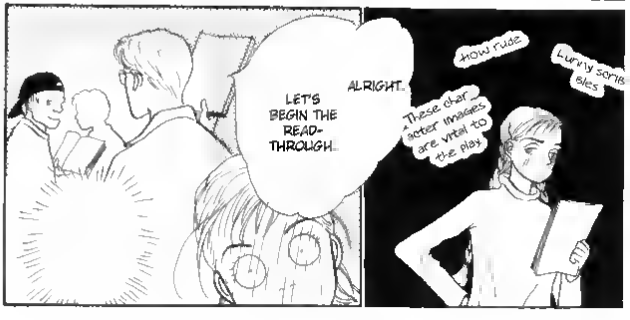

"A LITTLE BIT OF EXCITEMENT WITH A DASH OF REGRET KIND OF MOOD."
"IMAGE MEMO AN ABOUT-TO-BLOW-CANDLES-ON-A-BIRTHDAY-CAKE FACE WOULD BE NICE."
"IMAGE MEMO HERE I'D LIKE YOU TO WALK AS IF YOU'RE SINGING SAZAE-SAN'S THEME* IN YOUR HEAD WHISTLING A BIT IS OK TOO."
Laugh.
I HOPE THAT IT'LL HELP YOU GUYS UNDER-STAND IT BETTER.
THOSE NOTES ARE MY SUG-GESTIONS TO THE ACTORS AS TO THE KIND OF EMO-TION SUITABLE FOR THE SCENE.
OH, THOSE?


WE'VE JUST NEVER SEEN A SCRIPT WITH SO MANY FUNNY SCRIBBLES BEFORE.
NO NO IT'S GOOD EASY TO UNDER-STAND.
IS IT WEIRD?
.....
HA HA HA
Hei ei ei

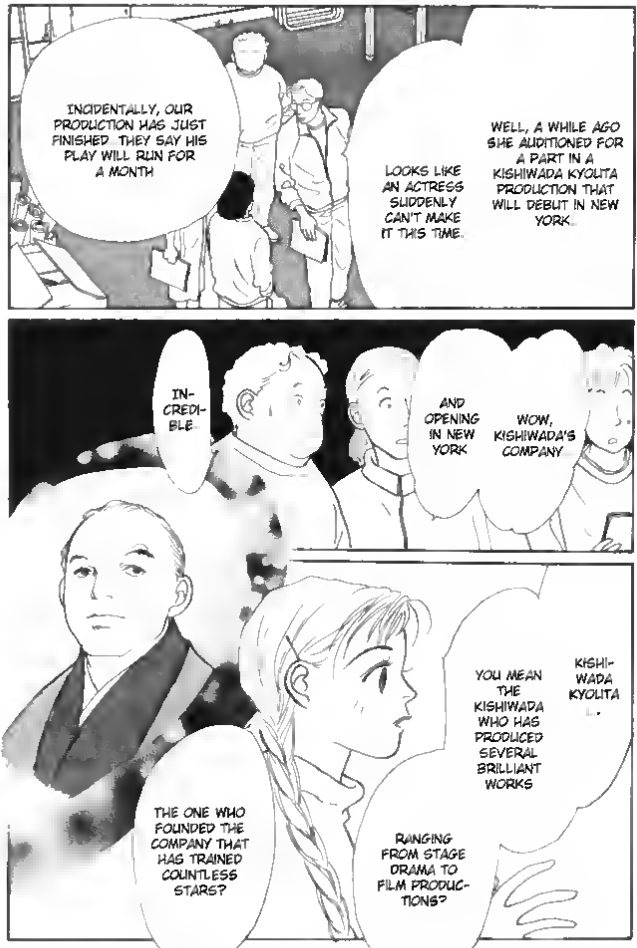


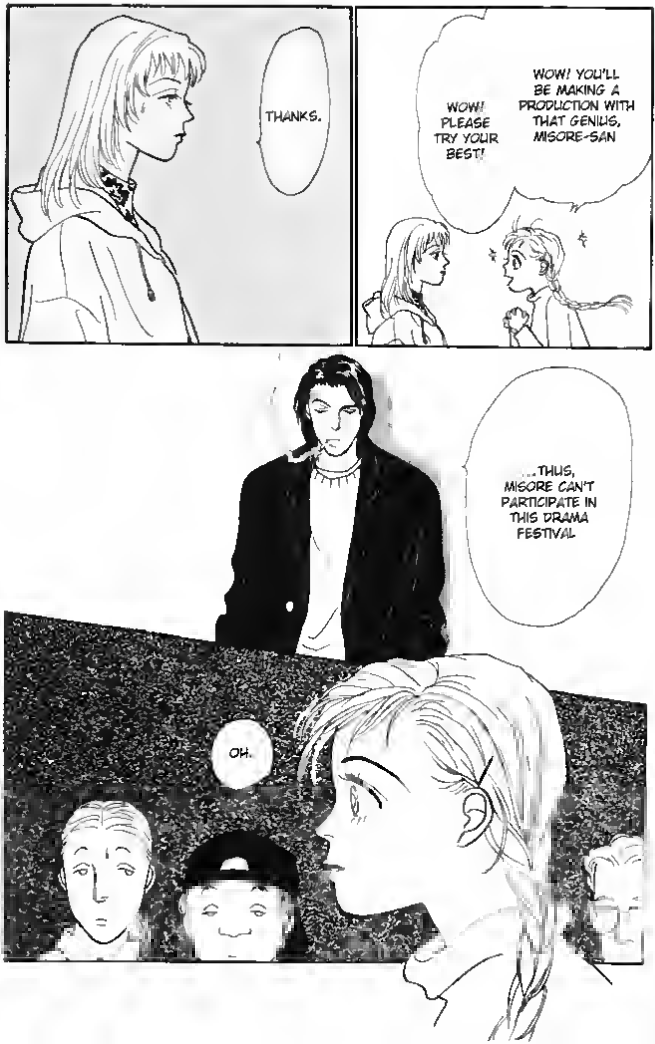
(T/N *Sazae-san:" is a Japanese comic strip created by Machiko Hasegawa. As one of Japan's longest running and oldest comic strips and animations, the series is known to nearly every Japanese person young and old. The stories revolved around events in large family and were presented in a lighthearted fashion. See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sazae)

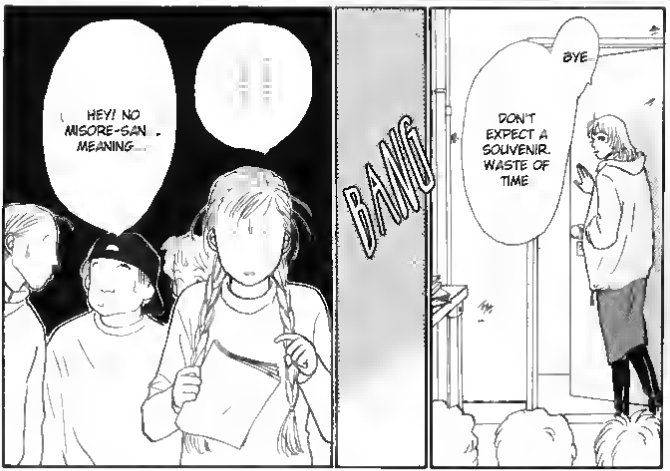
LET'S GO AHEAD FIRST
SHE'LL BE HERE ANY MINUTE
WAIT. MISORE-SAN HASN'T ARRIVED YET.
OH.
HERE WE GO
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE HAD SOMETHING TO DISCUSS WITH HIM
MISORE-SAN IS PROBABLY IN SHIMAMURA-SAN'S OFFICE.
Greeting?
IT'S MY FIRST TIME STAGE DIRECTING. I'D LIKE TO MAKE A PROPER GREETING.
NO MATTER WHAT, I WANT TO HAVE EVERYONE HERE TOGETHER.
NO.
Oh

I'M STILL WAITING FOR YOUR ANSWER.
I TALKED TO YOU ABOUT THIS BEFORE
I KNOW
I KNOW
YOU KNOW, I WAS HERE FIRST!
OH, RIGHT
SCRATCH
SCRATCH

AH!
FINALLY MADE UP YOUR MIND, HUH?
WHAT?
MISORE -SAN
IS GOING TO NEW YORK!?


INCIDENTALLY, OUR PRODUCTION HAS JUST FINISHED. THEY SAY HIS PLAY WILL RUN FOR A MONTH
LOOKS LIKE AN ACTRESS SUDDENLY CAN'T MAKE IT THIS TIME.
WELL, A WHILE AGO SHE AUDITIONED FOR A PART IN A KISHIWADA KYOUTA PRODUCTION THAT WILL DEBUT IN NEW YORK.
IN-CREDI-BLE.
AND OPENING IN NEW YORK
WOW, KISHIWADA'S COMPANY
KISHI-WADA KYOUTA...
YOU MEAN THE KISHIWADA WHO HAS PRODUCED SEVERAL BRILLIANT WORKS
RANGING FROM STAGE DRAMA TO FILM PRODUC-TIONS?
THE ONE WHO FOUNDED THE COMPANY THAT HAS TRAINED COUNTLESS STARS?


THANKS.
WOW! PLEASE TRY YOUR BEST!
WOW! YOU'LL BE MAKING A PRODUCTION WITH THAT GENIUS, MISORE-SAN
...THUS, MISORE CAN'T PARTICIPATE IN THIS DRAMA FESTIVAL
OH.



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M-MISORE-SAN
THE ONLY ACTRESS IN OUR TROUPE IS GONE

A month and a half until the drama festival...

WELL...
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO, SASAYA YUU?

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Misore-san seized the grand opportunity that fell upon her lap and left for New York.
Panic!!
The only actress in our troupe is gone.
What'll become of my first drama script!?

明日の王様
UNIT 10

MAKI-SAN!
HEY
HEY
PLEASE! HELP ME!!
BUT... I'VE LOOKED EVERY-WHERE AND THE ONLY ONE I CAN THINK OF IS MAKI-SAN PLEASE HELP!
I KNOW THAT I'VE RECEIVED A LOT OF HELP FROM YOU WITH-OUT GIVING ANY-THING IN RETURN.

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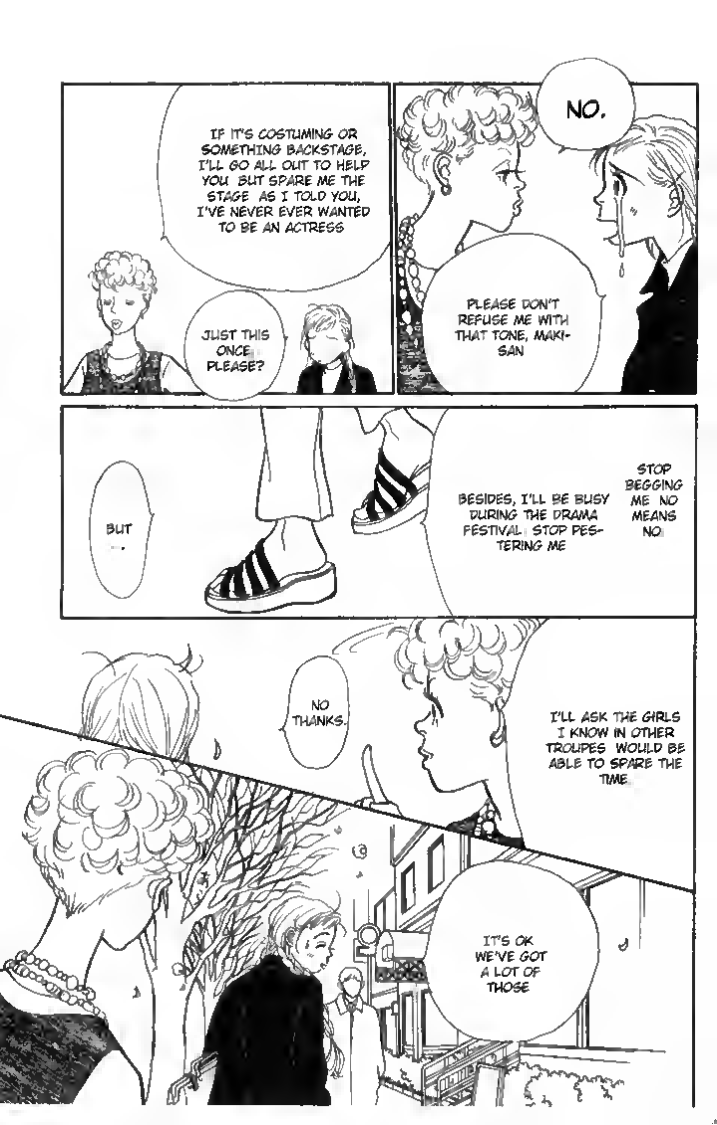
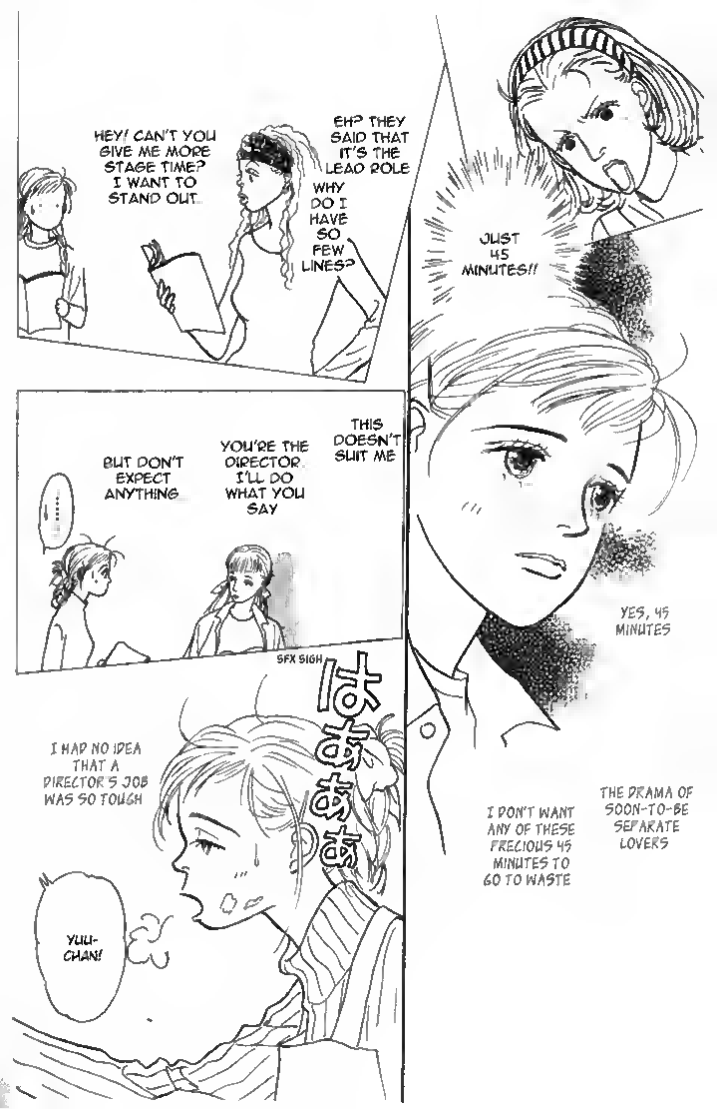

IF IT'S COSTUMING OR SOMETHING BACKSTAGE, I'LL GO ALL OUT TO HELP YOU. BUT SPARE ME THE STAGE. AS I TOLD YOU, I'VE NEVER EVER WANTED TO BE AN ACTRESS
JUST THIS ONCE, PLEASE?
NO.
PLEASE DON'T REFUSE ME WITH THAT TONE, MAKI-SAN
BUT...
BESIDES, I'LL BE BUSY DURING THE DRAMA FESTIVAL. STOP PESTERING ME
STOP BEGGING ME. NO MEANS NO.
NO THANKS.
I'LL ASK THE GIRLS I KNOW IN OTHER TROUPES. WOULD BE ABLE TO SPARE THE TIME.
IT'S OK. WE'VE GOT A LOT OF THOSE

HEY!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE!?
AGAIN?
I'M ONLY HERE BECAUSE KIMURA BEGGED ME TO COME
WHAT GIVES? I'M DOING THIS ONE SCENE OVER AND OVER AGAIN

BUT IT STILL DOESN'T LOOK LIKE
WHAT I PICTURED IN MY HEAD
BULLSHIT
HAVE YOU ANY IDEA HOW LONG I'VE BEEN IN THIS BUSINESS?
AREN'T THE MAIN CHARACTERS JUST ME AND MY LOVER? WHAT'S WITH ALL THESE CHARACTERS?
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A BIZARRE SCRIPT
IT'S MY PRODUCTION
SO PLEASE FOLLOW MY DIRECTIONS
IF YOU INSIST ON YOUR IDEA, THEN WHY DON'T YOU USE YOUR EXCELLENT SKILL TO BETTER THE CHARACTER'S IMAGE IN MY HEAD?
.....
I QUIT!
EH? HEY!
A ..UHH

BANG
Sigh
UHH
ERM
SORRY KIMURA BUT A 45-MINUTE PLAY ISN'T WHAT I HAD IN MIND ANYWAY
I'M SO SORRY. YOU WENT TO ALL THE TROUBLE TO BRING HER HERE.
SHE ALWAYS GETS A LEAD ROLE, SO SHE HAS A PRETTY HIGH OPINION OF HERSELF
HOW MANY SO FAR?
EH?
OH, SHE'S THE THIRD ONE

WE ALL RECOMMENDED ACTRESSES FROM OTHER COMPANIES
BUT NO ONE'S SATISFIED YUU-CHAN'S REQUIRE-MENTS SO FAR.
OH, CHIEF!
WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
HEY!
TAD TAD TAD
TO TALK HER INTO COMING BACK.
I'LL TRY TO CON-VINCE HER ONE MORE TIME
FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, SHE'LL NEVER ACT THE WAY YOU WANT HER TO
ARE YOU GOING TO INDULGE HER?
.....


HEY! CAN'T YOU GIVE ME MORE STAGE TIME? I WANT TO STAND OUT.
EH? THEY SAID THAT IT'S THE LEAD ROLE
WHY DO I HAVE SO FEW LINES?
JUST 45 MINUTES!!
YES, 45 MINUTES
THE DRAMA OF SOON-TO-BE SEPARATE LOVERS
I DON'T WANT ANY OF THESE PRECIOUS 45 MINUTES TO GO TO WASTE
BUT DON'T EXPECT ANYTHING
YOU'RE THE DIRECTOR. I'LL DO WHAT YOU SAY
THIS DOESN'T SUIT ME
SFX SIGH
I HAD NO IDEA THAT A DIRECTOR'S JOB WAS SO TOUGH
はぁ〜
YUU-CHAN!

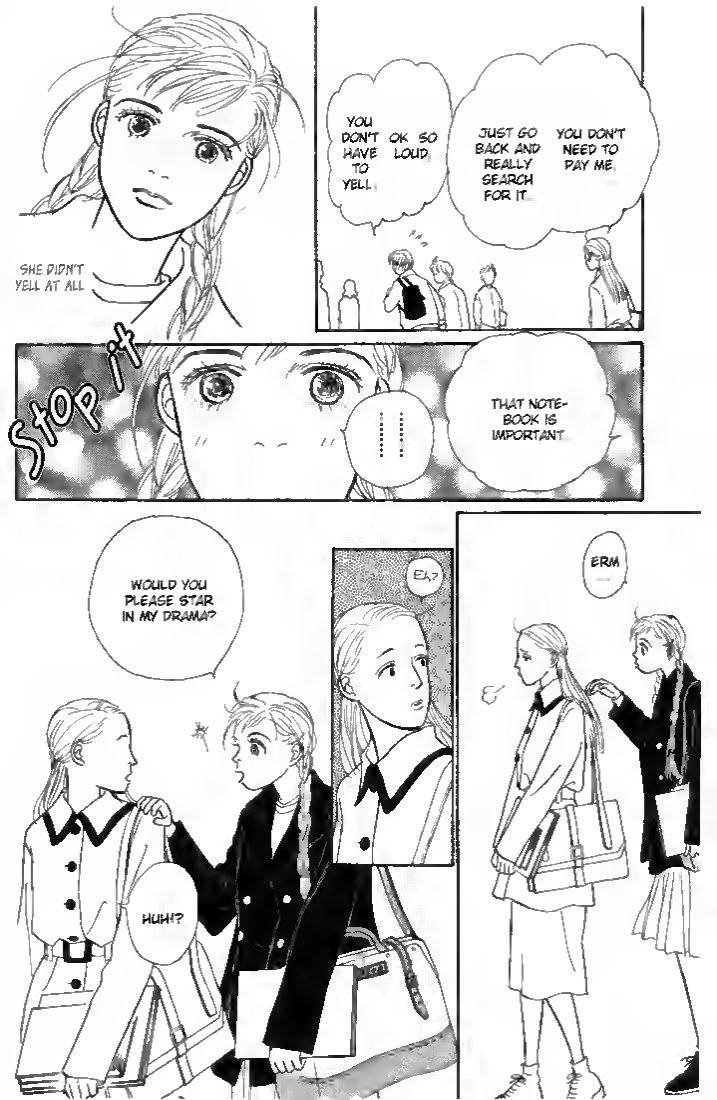
The time is drawing near.
OOPS
TOO MUCH PAINT!
BRUSH
BRUSH
EH?
But we have to keep rehearsing without the lead actress
NOOO
HOW ABOUT I DRESS UP AS A GIRL?
What do i do?

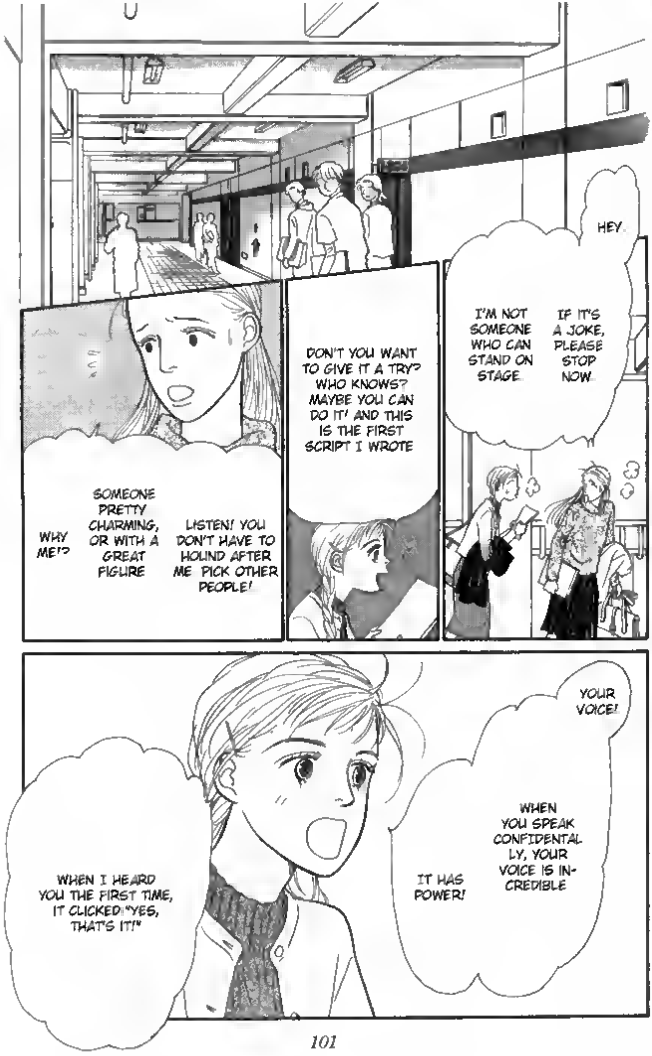
OR YOU CAN GO OUT AND FIND AN ACTRESS WHO MEETS YOUR REQUIREMENTS.
HOW COME?
THOSE WHO CAME WERE ALL SKILLED ACTRESSES
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, SHIMAMURA -SAN.

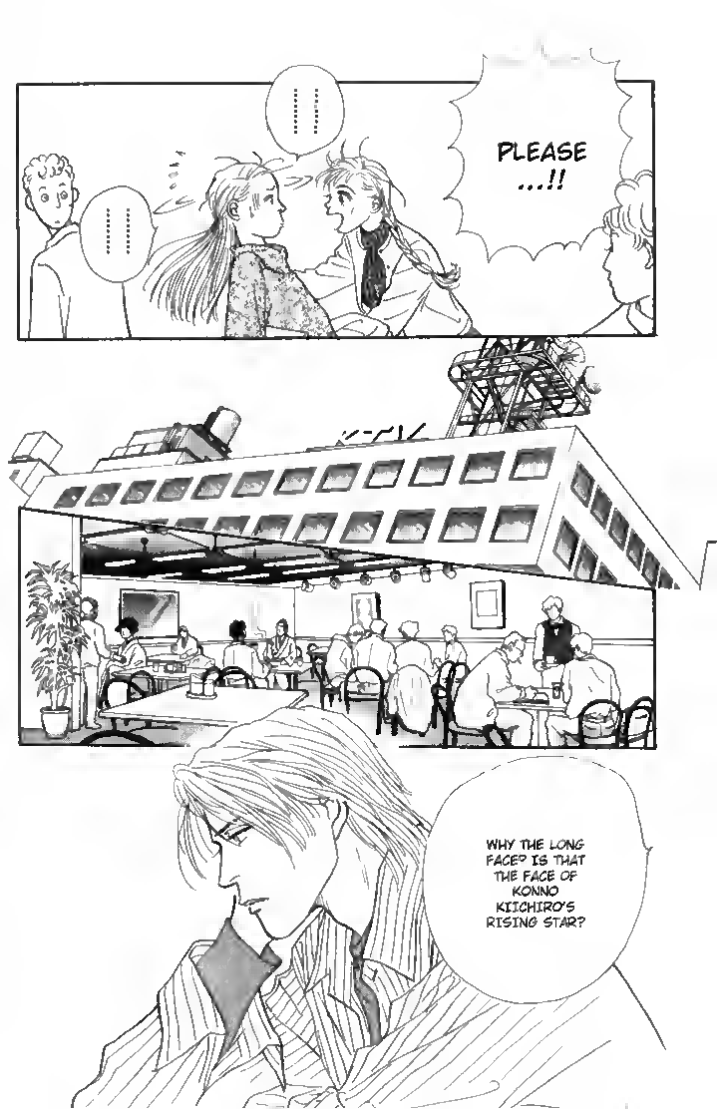
AH I SEE...
BECAUSE I CAN'T HELP COMPARING...
I WANT YOU TO ACT AT THAT LEVEL
BE JUST AS GREAT...

IF ONLY I CAN FIND A BLANK CANVAS I CAN PAINT ON AS MY OWN
COME TO THINK OF IT, THEY'RE LIKE PAINTED CANVASES
I NEED SOMEONE WITHOUT BAGGAGE
SKILLFUL,
CREATIVE
!!!!!
OH DEAR
WHERE CAN I FIND SUCH AN ACTRESS?

AH GRANNY, WHAT AM I TO DO?
OH NO.
YES, OH NO!
I SAID I WAS SORRY.
IT'S AN ACCIDENT. I CAN'T HELP IT.
THAT ACCIDENT WAS BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T PAY ATTENTION!
GO BACK AND FIND IT ONE MORE TIME!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
JUST A NOTE-BOOK.
I BORROWED IT FROM HER
AND PROBABLY THREW IT AWAY BY ACCIDENT.
OK. OK. I WILL
IF I CAN'T FIND IT, I'LL PAY YOU. HAPPY NOW?


SHE DIDN'T YELL AT ALL
YOU DON'T HAVE TO YELL
OK SO LOUD
JUST GO BACK AND REALLY SEARCH FOR IT
YOU DON'T NEED TO PAY ME
Stop it
.....
THAT NOTE-BOOK IS IMPORTANT
WOULD YOU PLEASE STAR IN MY DRAMA?
Eh,?
HUH!?
ERM


HEY.
I'M NOT SOMEONE WHO CAN STAND ON STAGE.
IF IT'S A JOKE, PLEASE STOP NOW.
DON'T YOU WANT TO GIVE IT A TRY? WHO KNOWS? MAYBE YOU CAN DO IT! AND THIS IS THE FIRST SCRIPT I WROTE
WHY ME!?
SOMEONE PRETTY CHARMING, OR WITH A GREAT FIGURE
LISTEN! YOU DON'T HAVE TO HOUND AFTER ME. PICK OTHER PEOPLE!
YOUR VOICE!
WHEN YOU SPEAK CONFIDENTIAL LY, YOUR VOICE IS IN-CREDIBLE
IT HAS POWER!
WHEN I HEARD YOU THE FIRST TIME, IT CLICKED. "YES, THAT'S IT!"


!!!
!!!
PLEASE ...!!
WHY THE LONG FACE? IS THAT THE FACE OF KONNO KIICHIRO'S RISING STAR?

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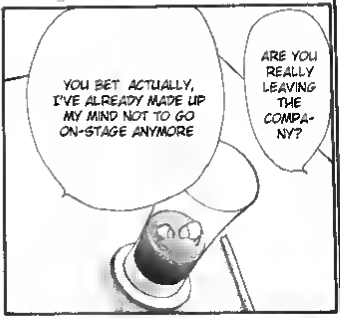

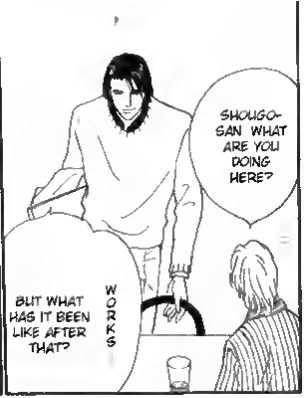

IT'S ALREADY STARTED.
TOO BAD, YOU WERE CAST FOR THE NEXT PRODUCTION, WEREN'T YOU? IT'LL OPEN SOON.
YOU DID? AND YOU STILL SEEM PRETTY DEJECTED?

I NEVER FELT SO MISERABLE STANDING ON STAGE BEFORE
NOW THINGS HAVE GONE CRAZY. THE TIMING IS ALL OFF. I'M CLUELESS WHEN TO ACT, HOW TO ACT...
EVERY DAY IS EXHAUSTING...
HEY HEY
YOU DITCHED YOUR TROUPE TO BECOME A CELEBRITY AND NOW YOU WANT TO QUIT?
I DIDN'T JUST...
JUST...
I JUST WANT TO VENT TO A FAMILIAR FACE
THAT'S ALL.
MY TIME'S UP.
THE SCRIPT READING FOR THE NEXT PART IS ABOUT TO BEGIN. I'VE GOT TO GO.

?
TOLIYA!
WE'VE GOT SOMETHING FUN FOR YOU TO SEE.
WHY DON'T YOU DROP BY MY REHEARSAL STUDIO SOMETIME
WHY DID YOU SAY THAT?
YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW.

OHARA-SAN, PLEASE MAKE EYE-CONTACT WITH YOUR PARTNER WHEN YOU SAY YOUR LINE
AND DON'T BE SO NER-VOUS
ONE MORE TIME
W-WHY DID Y-YOU
RECESS.
LET'S TAKE A SHORT BREAK
WHEW
NO! I CAN'T
SASAYA -SAN!
OH

新製品大好きっ！

新製品

この表示で
つい 手を出して
しまうのは

コンビニの
お弁当と

ファミレスの
メニュー

りそんな食生活

そんなかんじします
一条せんせ

WHEN DID YOU COME HERE?

WHO'S THIS GIRL?

YUU-CHAN BROUGHT HER IN

HER NAME'S OHARA MIHO SHE'S A SENIOR IN THE SAME UNIVERSITY

FRESH NEWBIE SHE SAYS THAT SHE'S BEEN ON STAGE ONLY ONCE DURING GRADE SCHOOL WITH A BUNCH OF CLASSMATES

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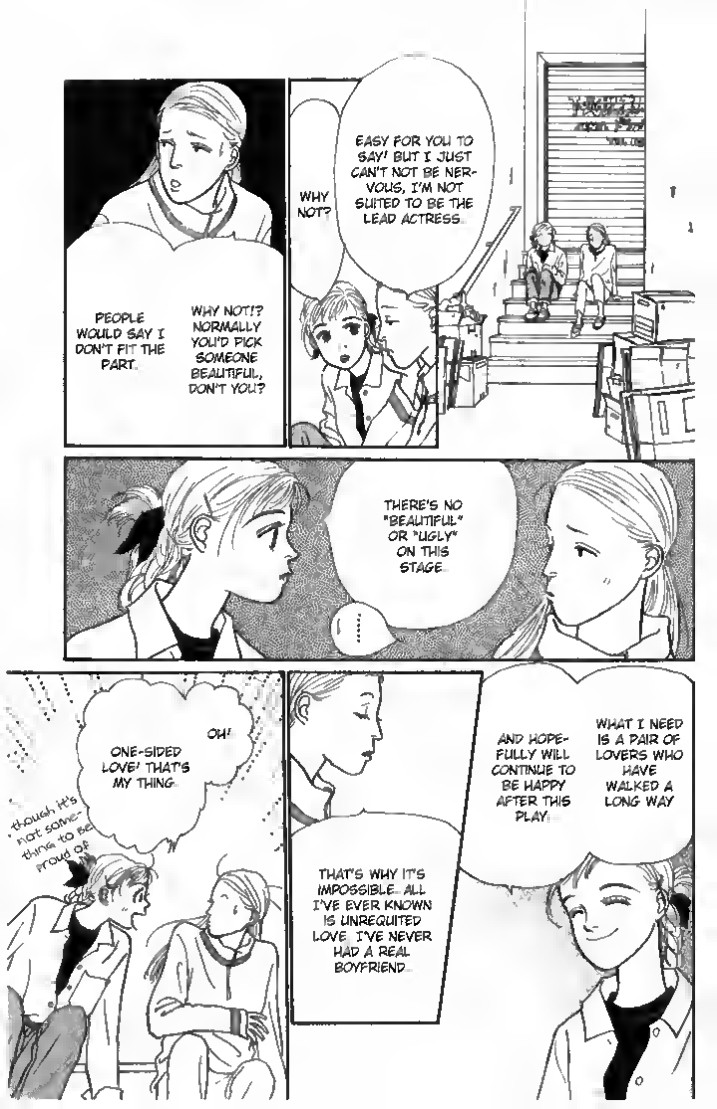
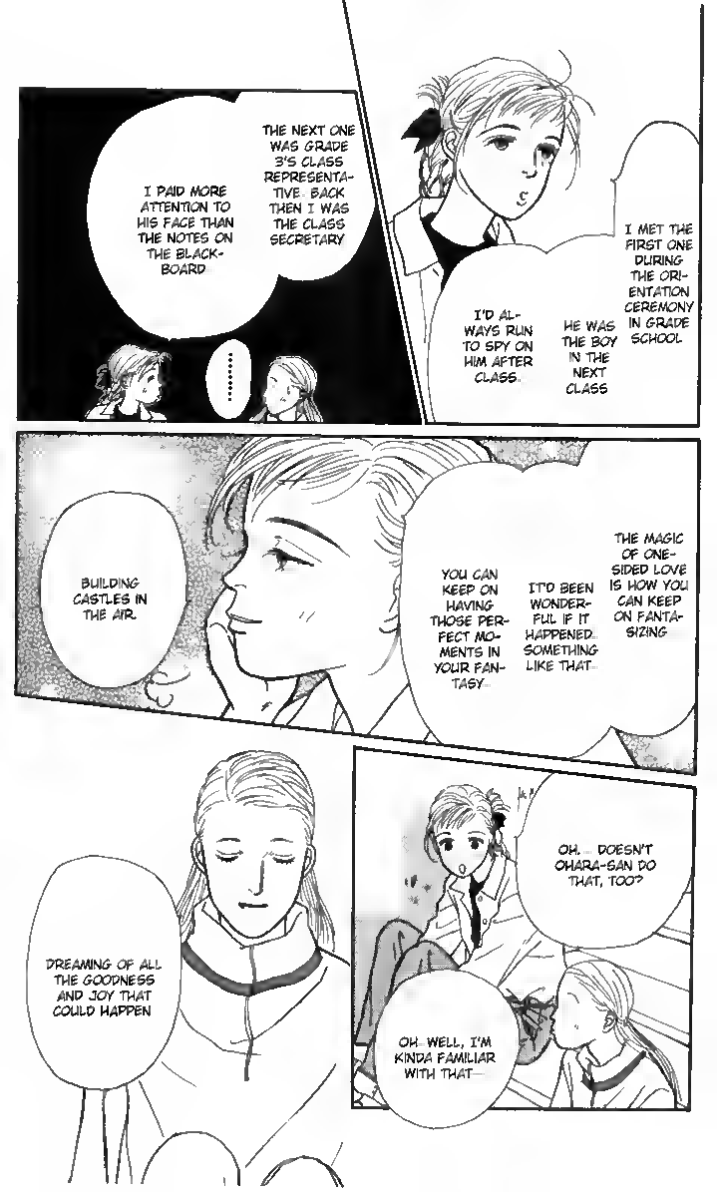
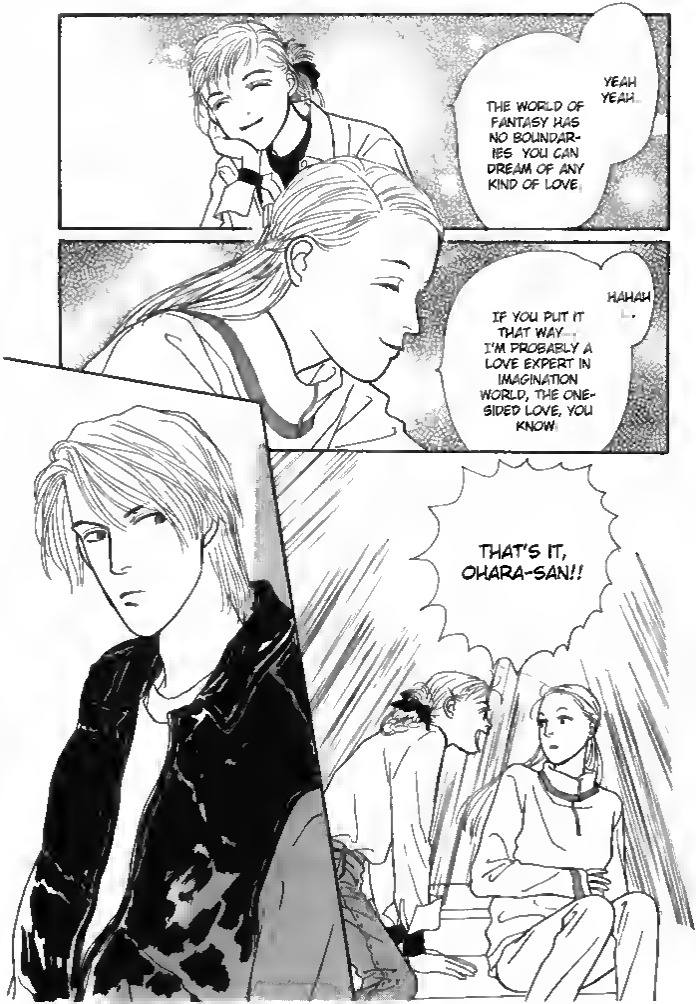
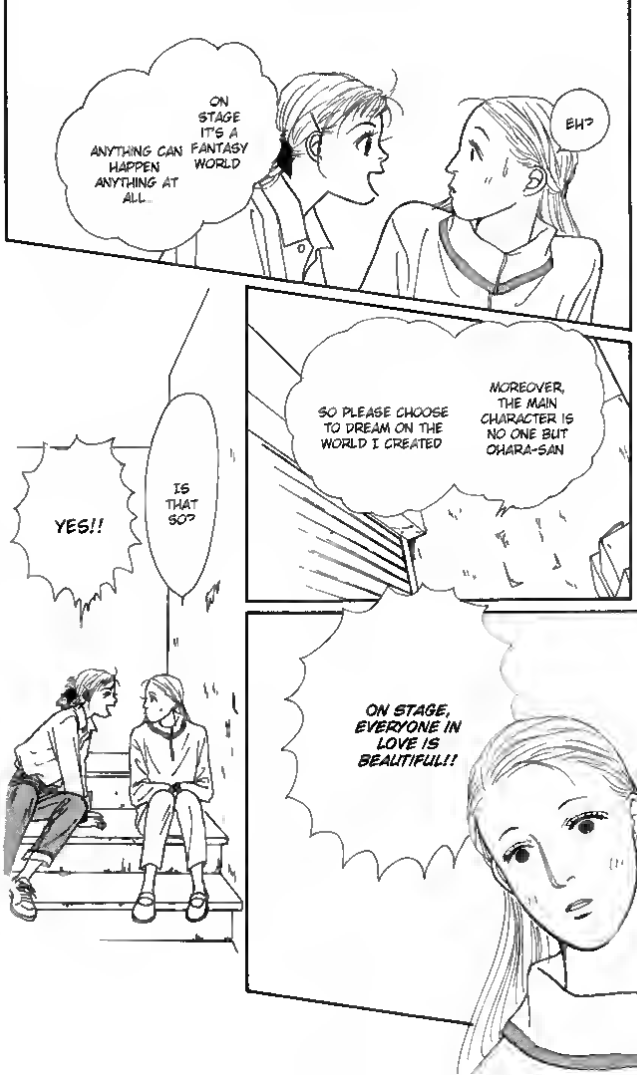
Oh, well, you just have to say it.
NO MATTER HOW HARD THEY TRY. YUU-CHAN, FOR INSTANCE.
NAH. THERE'RE SOME WHO CAN'T ACT
SURE WE'VE BEEN REHEARSING OVER AND OVER EVERY DAY.
BUT I THINK SHE'S MADE HUGE PROGRESS SINCE THE FIRST DAY SHE CAME HERE.
I'D SAY, SHE CAN'T FEND OFF YUU-CHAN'S WILLFULNESS
BECAUSE YUU-CHAN IS SUCH A SWEET-TALKER.
YEAH! BUT HOW STRANGE SHE'S STILL HERE
THIS GIRL, SHE KEEPS SAYING "I CAN'T DO IT" EVERY OTHER MINUTE.
Nanno amidasu
THIS BUSINESS IS THAT TOUGH, HUH?
HMM. OHARA-SAN TOLD ME SHE SAID "NO" OVER AND OVER, BUT SASAYA-SAN KEPT ON PESTERING. AT LAST, SHE ENDED UP AGREEING TO TRY IT JUST ONCE.


PEOPLE WOULD SAY I DON'T FIT THE PART.
WHY NOT!? NORMALLY YOU'D PICK SOMEONE BEAUTIFUL, DON'T YOU?
WHY NOT?
EASY FOR YOU TO SAY! BUT I JUST CAN'T NOT BE NERVOUS, I'M NOT SUITED TO BE THE LEAD ACTRESS.
THERE'S NO "BEAUTIFUL" OR "UGLY" ON THIS STAGE.
AND HOPEFULLY WILL CONTINUE TO BE HAPPY AFTER THIS PLAY.
WHAT I NEED IS A PAIR OF LOVERS WHO HAVE WALKED A LONG WAY
THAT'S WHY IT'S IMPOSSIBLE. ALL I'VE EVER KNOWN IS UNREQUITED LOVE. I'VE NEVER HAD A REAL BOYFRIEND.
OH!
ONE-SIDED LOVE! THAT'S MY THING.
"though it's not something to be proud of"


I MET THE FIRST ONE DURING THE ORIENTATION CEREMONY IN GRADE SCHOOL.
HE WAS THE BOY IN THE NEXT CLASS.
I'D ALWAYS RUN TO SPY ON HIM AFTER CLASS.
THE NEXT ONE WAS GRADE 3'S CLASS REPRESENTATIVE. BACK THEN I WAS THE CLASS SECRETARY.
I PAID MORE ATTENTION TO HIS FACE THAN THE NOTES ON THE BLACKBOARD.
.....
THE MAGIC OF ONE-SIDED LOVE IS HOW YOU CAN KEEP ON FANTASIZING.
IT'D BEEN WONDERFUL IF IT HAPPENED. SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
YOU CAN KEEP ON HAVING THOSE PERFECT MOMENTS IN YOUR FANTASY.
BUILDING CASTLES IN THE AIR.
OH... DOESN'T OHARA-SAN DO THAT, TOO?
OH. WELL, I'M KINDA FAMILIAR WITH THAT—
DREAMING OF ALL THE GOODNESS AND JOY THAT COULD HAPPEN


YEAH YEAH...
THE WORLD OF FANTASY HAS NO BOUNDARIES. YOU CAN DREAM OF ANY KIND OF LOVE.
HAHAH...
IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY..., I'M PROBABLY A LOVE EXPERT IN IMAGINATION WORLD, THE ONE-SIDED LOVE, YOU KNOW.
THAT'S IT, OHARA-SAN!!


EH?
ON STAGE IT'S A FANTASY WORLD
ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN ANYTHING AT ALL..
MOREOVER, THE MAIN CHARACTER IS NO ONE BUT OHARA-SAN
SO PLEASE CHOOSE TO DREAM ON THE WORLD I CREATED
IS THAT SO?
YES!!
ON STAGE, EVERYONE IN LOVE IS BEAUTIFUL!!

Chuckle

LOOKS LIKE HE JUST LEFT.
OH?
YEP! HE WAS HERE JUST NOW.
EH? TOUYA-SAN?
WHAT!? THE ICHII TOUYA!?
ICHII TOUYA OF 'ELOQUENCE'.
TOUYA ?
HE DID?
Another fan huh!
.....
WHERE ?
WHERE ?
KYAA
THE ONE WHO PLAYED THE AWARD-WINNING 'ONCE UPON A TIME'?

HAH
We're not joking
...re you pulling my leg?
IT'S INCREDIBLE
I WAS WORRIED NOW IT'LL TURN OUT
BUT NOW IT'S QUITE AMAZING, THERE ARE LOTS OF TIMES THAT THAT OHARA GIRL...

CAN DELIVER THE LINES SURPRISINGLY WELL
MAYBE, YOU KNOW,
OUR TROUPE IS ON THE RISE
AND WHY ARE YOU HANGING OUT HERE BY YOURSELF?
while everyone is busy with rehearsals
OHARA AND YUU-CHAN'S ENTHUSIASM ENCOURAGES EVERYONE TO TRY EVEN HARDER.
NEWS TRAVELS FAST
I HEARD THAT KTV WANTS TO TURN THE DRAMA WE DID LAST YEAR INTO A TV SERIES
HEY! THAT'S NOT FAIR. I THOUGHT THAT SHIMAMURA-SAN WAS TOO BUSY TO CHECK ON OUR PROGRESS SO I CAME HERE TO REPORT IT.

WAITING
WAITING
YEAH
AND THEY WANT YOU TO WRITE THE SCRIPT, DON'T THEY?
YOU MUST BE GETTING VERY BUSY
PLEASE DON'T SAY THAT YOU'RE GOING TO LET SOMEONE TAKE OVER STAGE DIRECTING AND CONCENTRATE ON SCRIPT WRITING
YEAH
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE THINK-ING?
DON'T BE SILLY
WHO WOULD I HAND IT TO?
WHO WOULD PUT HIS PRECIOUS TROUPE IN THE HANDS OF A NAIVE CHILD?

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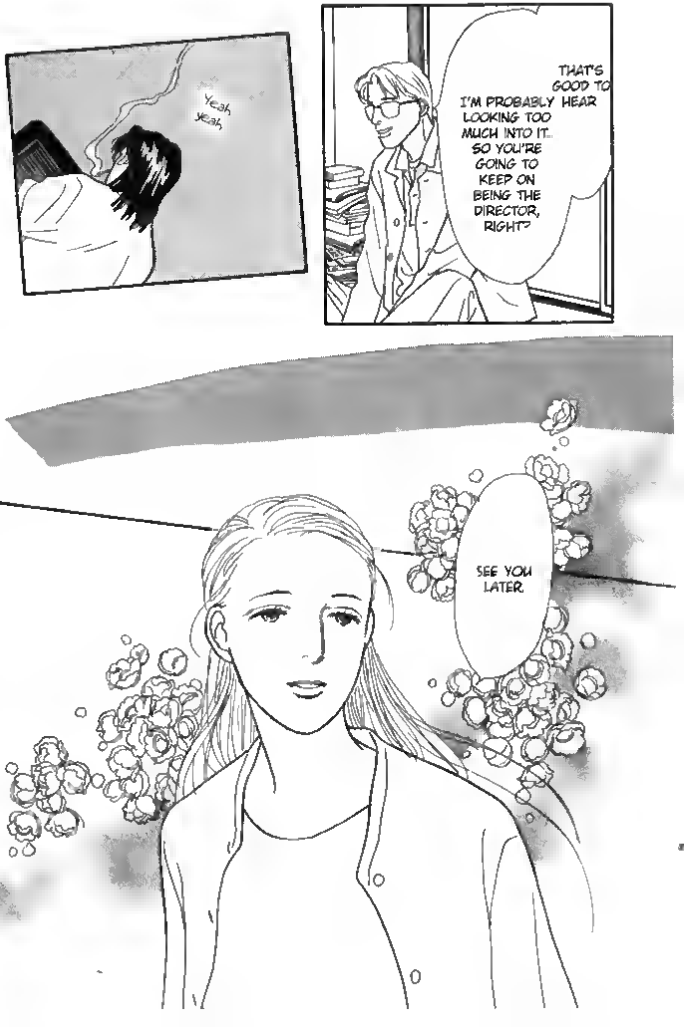
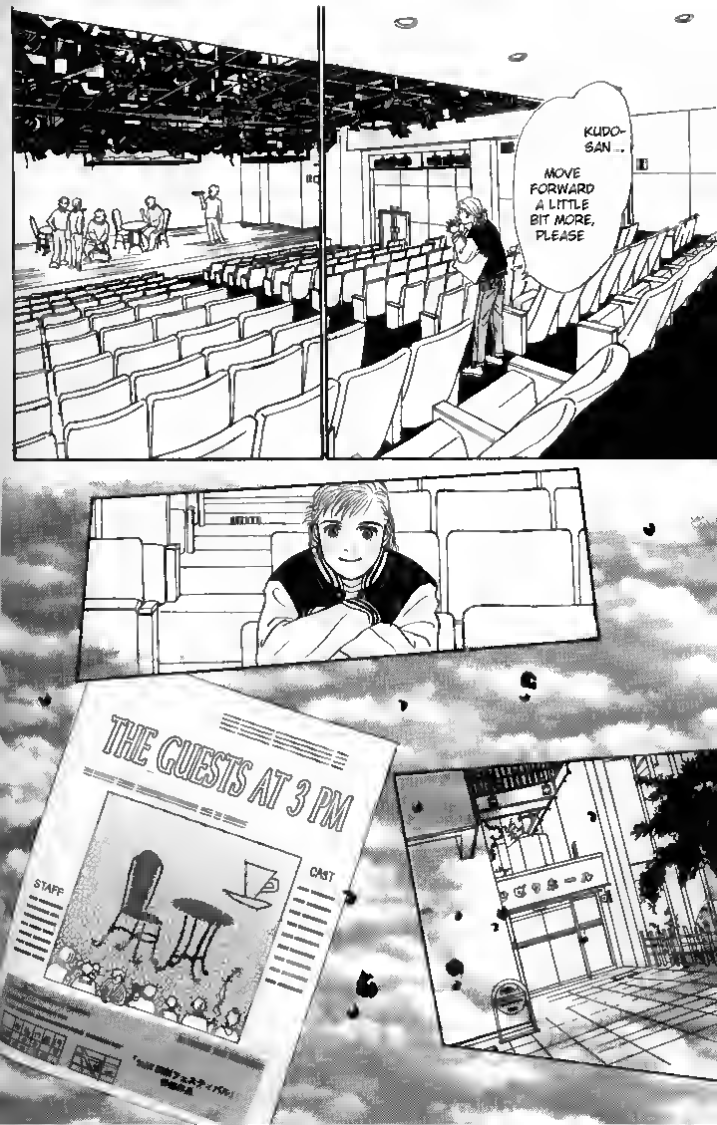

Yeah, yeah.
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR
I'M PROBABLY LOOKING TOO MUCH INTO IT.
SO YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP ON BEING THE DIRECTOR, RIGHT?
SEE YOU LATER.

!?
YOU THINK SO?
OHARA-SAN.
YOU DID REALLY WELL,
Granny
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
THAT WAS EXCELLENT!

Ohara-san who keeps complaining that she can't do it.
Making a drama is full of surprises.
The more she acts, the more she changes in amazing ways.
Watching her progress makes me keep telling myself that I cannot lose.

Because sometimes,
Perhaps this feeling is contagious
without warning, everyone delivers an incredibly superb performance.
The actors are getting better.
Every day is filled with joy.
Every day is filled with excitement.


KUDO-SAN..
MOVE FORWARD A LITTLE BIT MORE, PLEASE
THE GUESTS AT 3 PM
STAFF
CAST

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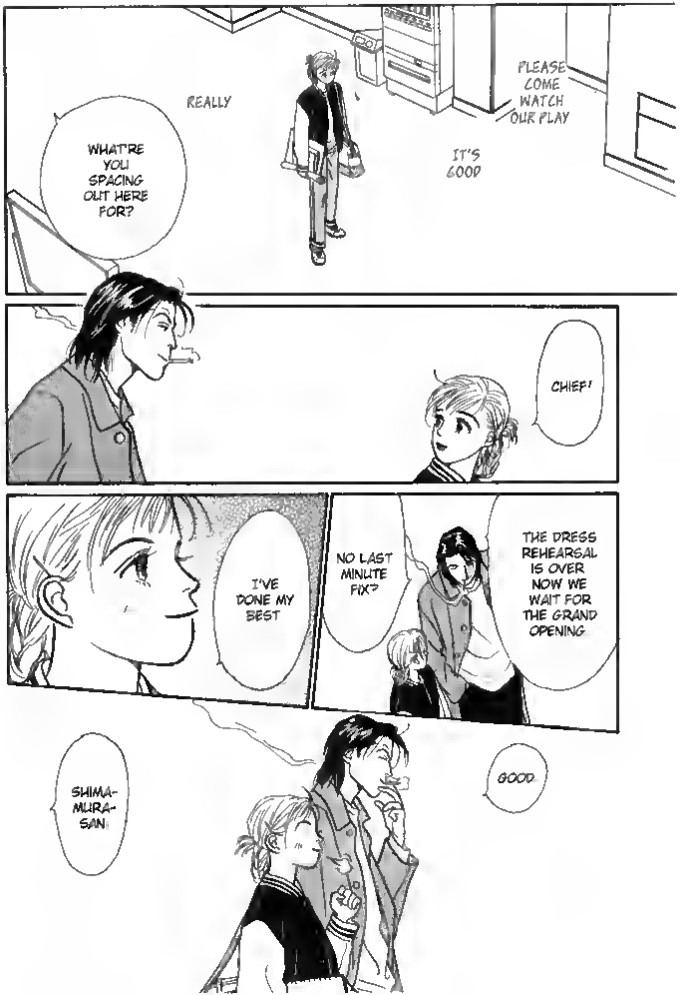
WHAT'RE YOU SPACING OUT HERE FOR?
REALLY
IT'S GOOD
PLEASE COME WATCH OUR PLAY
CHIEF!
I'VE DONE MY BEST
NO LAST MINUTE FIX?
THE DRESS REHEARSAL IS OVER NOW WE WAIT FOR THE GRAND OPENING
SHIMA-MURA-SAN!
GOOD

LONG TIME NO SEE
OH
IT'S GARANDOU TOMORROW, RIGHT?
MY PRODUCTION HAS JUST BEGUN IN THE THEATRE NEXT DOOR WHAT A SHAME YOU BETRAYED ME, SHIMAMURA-SAN
BUT YOU SUDDENLY THRUSTED YOUR PRODUCTION INTO THE HANDS OF A NO-NAME KID
MY DESIRE TO WORK VANISHED
no-name kid
BE-TRAYED?
YOU KNOW
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS VERY DAY THE DAY WE CAN OFFICIAL-LY COMPETE, SHIMAMURA-SAN

YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED
IF YOU SAY THAT SHE'S A "NO-NAME KID," THEN LET ME INTRODUCE HER TO YOU.
REMEMBER WELL, THIS IS SASAYA YUU, GARANDOU'S PLAYWRIGHT AND DIRECTOR.
N-NICE TO MEET YOU! I'M SASAYA YUU!
The no-name kid!
!
HEY, ISN'T THAT HINO?
YOU?

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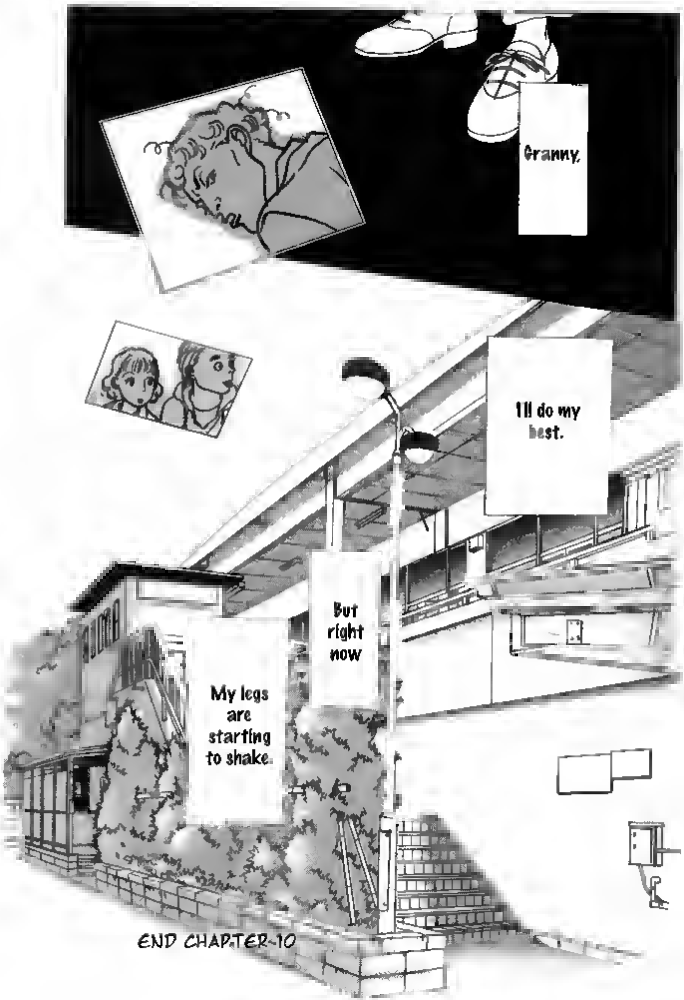
RIVAL ?
IT'S BEEN AGES HOW ARE YOU?
OH YES! YOUR TROUPE PARTICIPATES IN THE FESTIVAL TOO
WHOA! THAT MAKES YOU OUR RIVAL HA HA!
K'SH
K'SH
K'SH
GIVE ME A BREAK!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
URM
OH! THAT GUY'S NAME IS HINO MASAO HE USED TO BE WITH US

HE SAID HE WANTED TO BE A DIRECTOR
BUT... HE DIDN'T GET ALONG WITH SHIMAMURA-SAN, SO HE LEFT
NOW HE'S THE STAGE DIRECTOR FOR A TROUPE CALLED 'RADIUM 100'
HIS NAME IS QUITE WELL-KNOWN IN THE DRAMA MAGA-ZINES
LOOKS LIKE HE'S GIVING IT HIS ALL THIS TIME
HEY! I HEARD HIS PRODUC-TION IS RIGHT NEXT DOOR.
WE CAN'T LOSE TO HIM. LET'S FIGHT, YUU-CHAN!
YES!
I'LL DO MY BEST.



END CHAPTER 10

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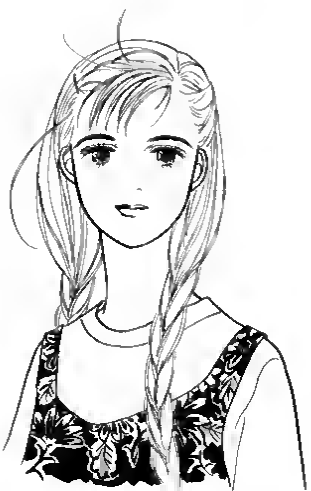
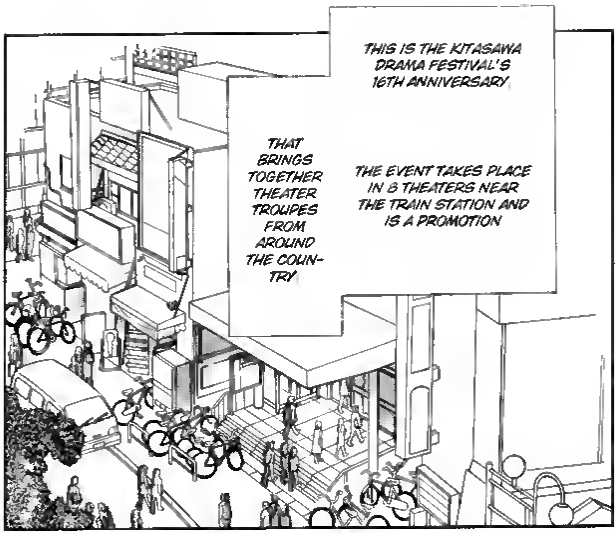
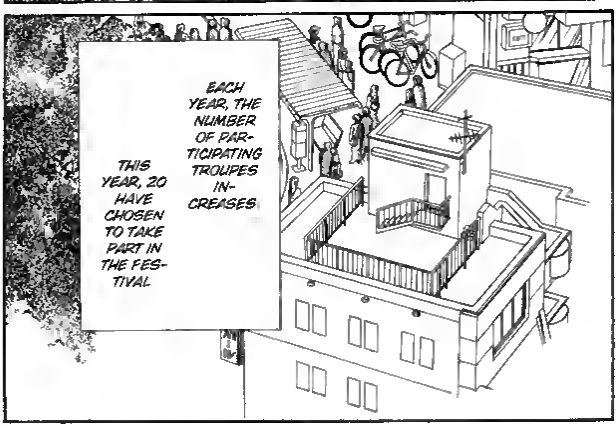
Entrance
Walk up!
明日の王様
UNIT II




THIS IS THE KITASAWA DRAMA FESTIVAL'S 16TH ANNIVERSARY
THAT BRINGS TOGETHER THEATER TROUPES FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY
THE EVENT TAKES PLACE IN 8 THEATERS NEAR THE TRAIN STATION AND IS A PROMOTION



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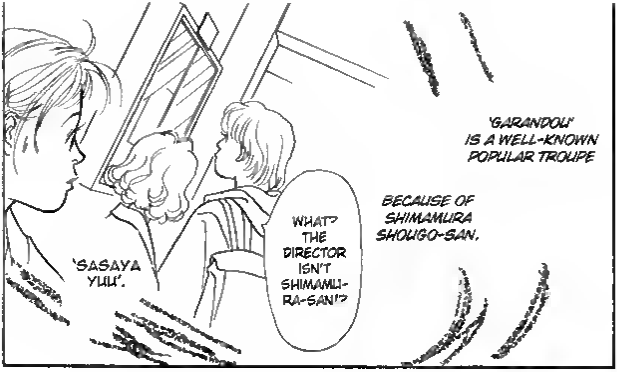
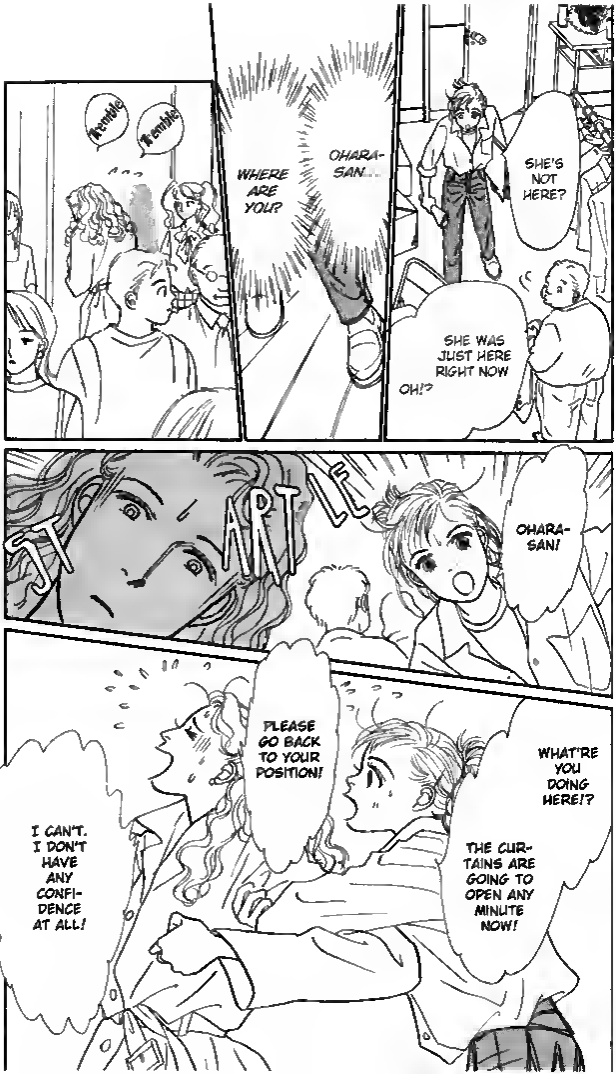
ALL 20 TROUPES WILL PERFORM IN THESE 8 THEATERS
MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE CAN JUMP FROM THEATER TO THEATER TO WATCH DIFFERENT TROUPES AT ANY TIME
REALLY? I THINK TODAY'S WAS BETTER.
THE ONE WE WATCHED YESTERDAY WAS MORE FUN
YES,

THE FESTIVAL IS A COMPETITIVE CHALLENGE FOR TROUPES TO RISE TO THEIR FULL POTENTIALS.
BUT THE SHOW IS ONLY SHOWING FOR THREE DAYS NORMALLY, WE'D ALREADY BE SELLING STANDING TICKETS TO PEOPLE BY NOW.
WE CAN'T HELP IT. IT'S NOT 'SHIMAMURA SHOUGO'S PLAY' THIS TIME.
-Hey, shush.
I GUESS WE CAN'T POSSIBLY SELL ALL THE TICKETS
I DON'T THINK THIS IS BAD
OH, I MOVED IT OVER THERE
I REMEMBER I PUT IT HERE.
DID YOU S,Y WE NEEDED ANOTHER SET OF COFFEE CUPS? SHOULDN'T EVERYTHING BE READY TO GO ALREADY?
THAT'S RIGHT, GRANNY


'SASAYA YUU'.
WHAT? THE DIRECTOR ISN'T SHIMAMURA-SAN!?
BECAUSE OF SHIMAMURA SHOUGO-SAN.
'GARANDOU' IS A WELL-KNOWN POPULAR TROUPE

EH? WHERE'S OHARA-SAN!?
RIGHT, GRANNY?
BUT EVERYONE STARTS AS A NOVICE.
SHE'S AN INEXPERIENCED NO-NAME KID
JUST A NOVICE.


Trembl
Trembl
WHERE ARE YOU?
OHARA-SAN...
SHE'S NOT HERE?
SHE WAS JUST HERE RIGHT NOW
OH!?
OHARA-SAN!
PLEASE GO BACK TO YOUR POSITION!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE!?
I CAN'T. I DON'T HAVE ANY CONFI-DENCE AT ALL!
THE CUR-TAINS ARE GOING TO OPEN ANY MINUTE NOW!

THUMP
THUMP
Smile

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THIS IS GOOD NEWS OR NOT, BUT THERE ARE LESS THAN A HUNDRED PEOPLE IN THE AUDIENCE
IS IT ANY LARGER THAN THE AUDIENCE YOU FACED IN GRADE SCHOOL?
clutch
SASAYA YUU, THE NOVICE DIRECTOR
AND OHARA MIHO, THE NOVICE ACTRESS
I GUESS THE WORD "NOVICE" DOES HELP US OUT A BIT
clutch
NO ONE WILL BLAME US IF WE SCREW UP!!
clutch

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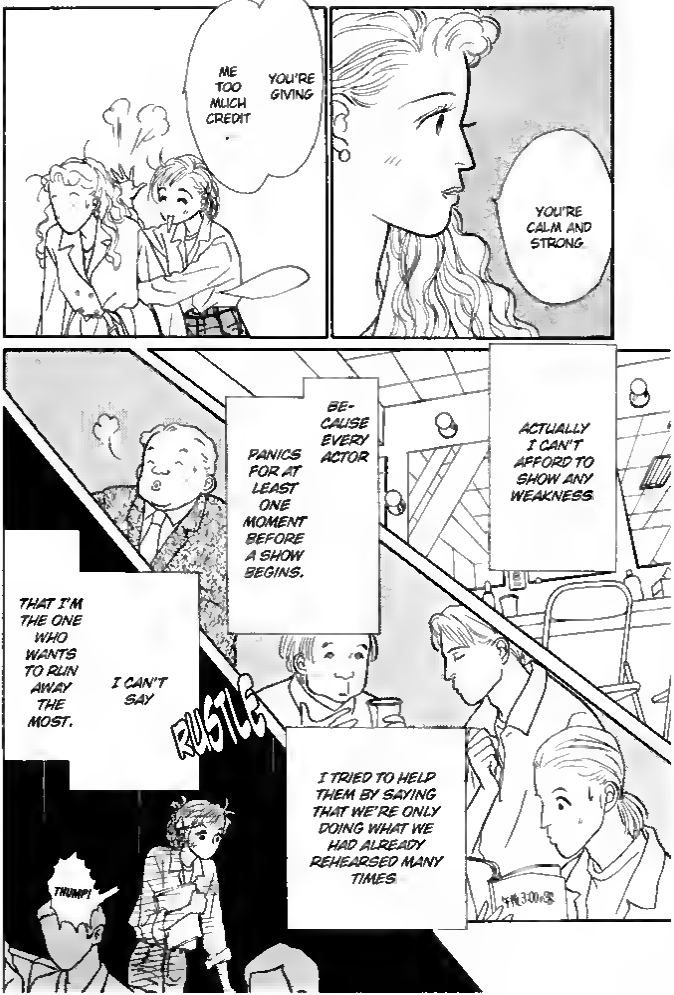
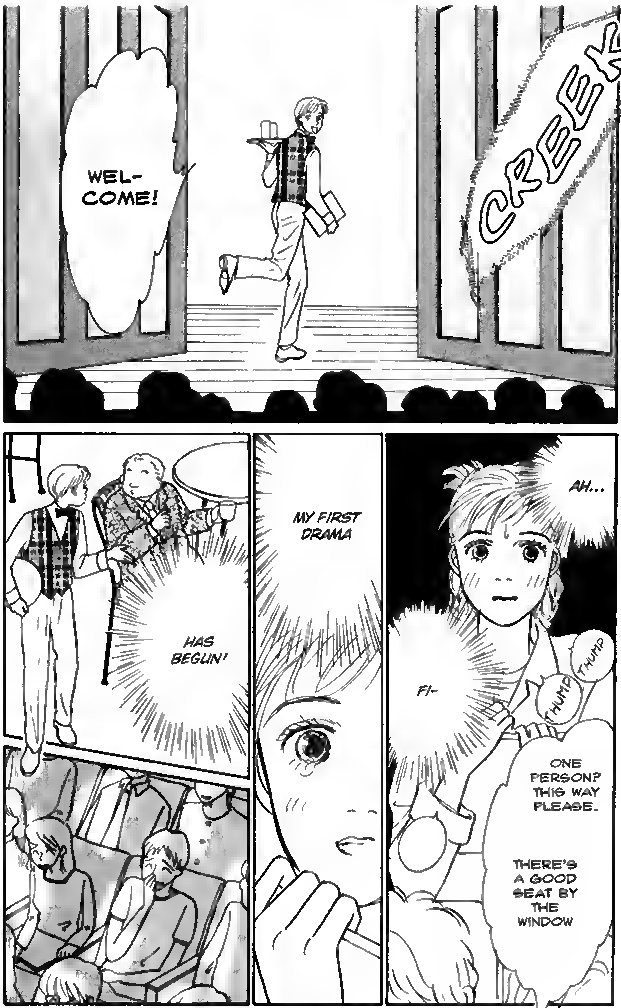
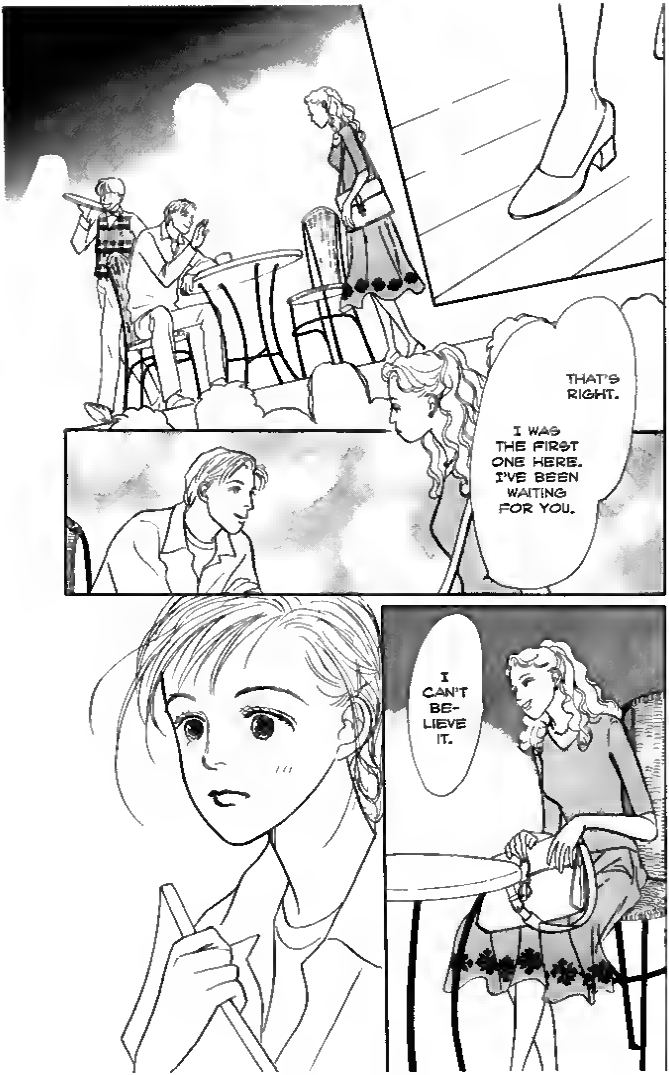
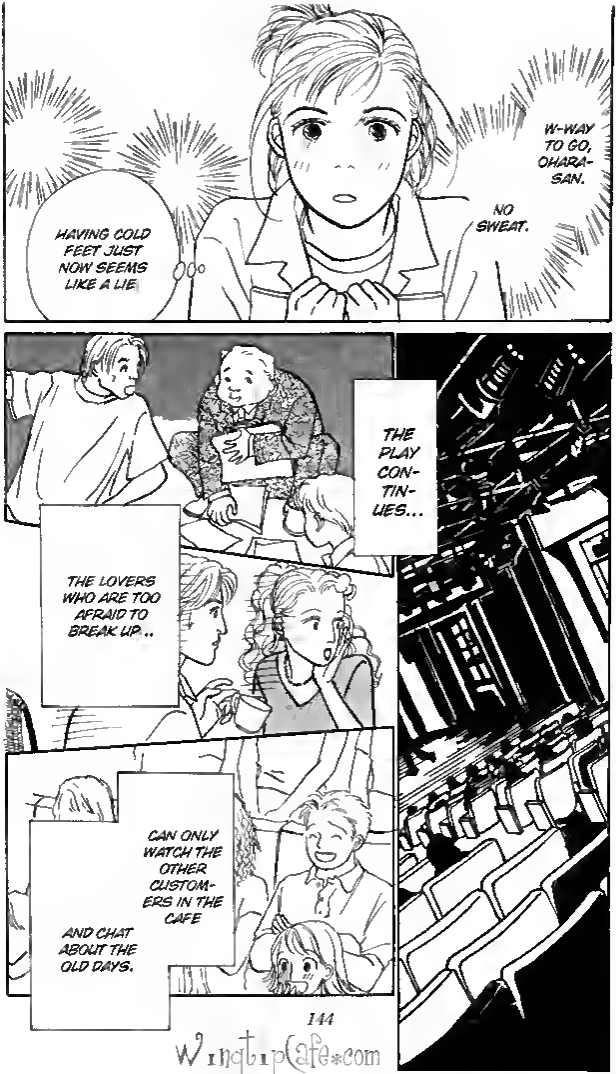

YOU'RE GIVING ME TOO MUCH CREDIT.
YOU'RE CALM AND STRONG.
ACTUALLY I CAN'T AFFORD TO SHOW ANY WEAKNESS.
BE-CAUSE EVERY ACTOR
PANICS FOR AT LEAST ONE MOMENT BEFORE A SHOW BEGINS.
I CAN'T SAY
THAT I'M THE ONE WHO WANTS TO RUN AWAY THE MOST.
RUSTLE
I TRIED TO HELP THEM BY SAYING THAT WE'RE ONLY DOING WHAT WE HAD ALREADY REHEARSED MANY TIMES.
THUMP!

OPEN
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP


WEL-
COME!
CREEK
AH...
THUMP
THUMP
ONE PERSON? THIS WAY PLEASE.
THERE'S A GOOD SEAT BY THE WINDOW
FI-
MY FIRST DRAMA
HAS BEGUN!


THAT'S RIGHT.
I WAS THE FIRST ONE HERE. I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
I CAN'T BE-LIEVE IT.


HAVING COLD FEET JUST NOW SEEMS LIKE A LIE.
NO SWEAT.
W-WAY TO GO, OHARA-SAN.
THE PLAY CONTINUES...
THE LOVERS WHO ARE TOO AFRAID TO BREAK UP..
CAN ONLY WATCH THE OTHER CUSTOMERS IN THE CAFE
AND CHAT ABOUT THE OLD DAYS.

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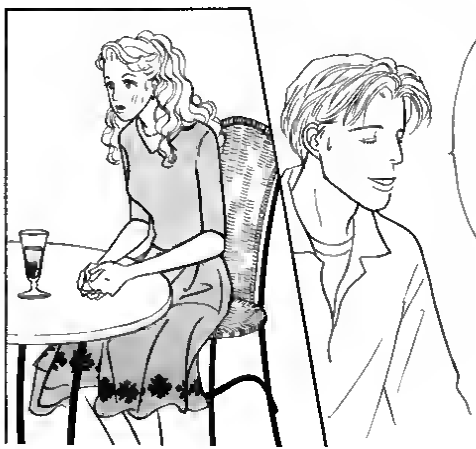
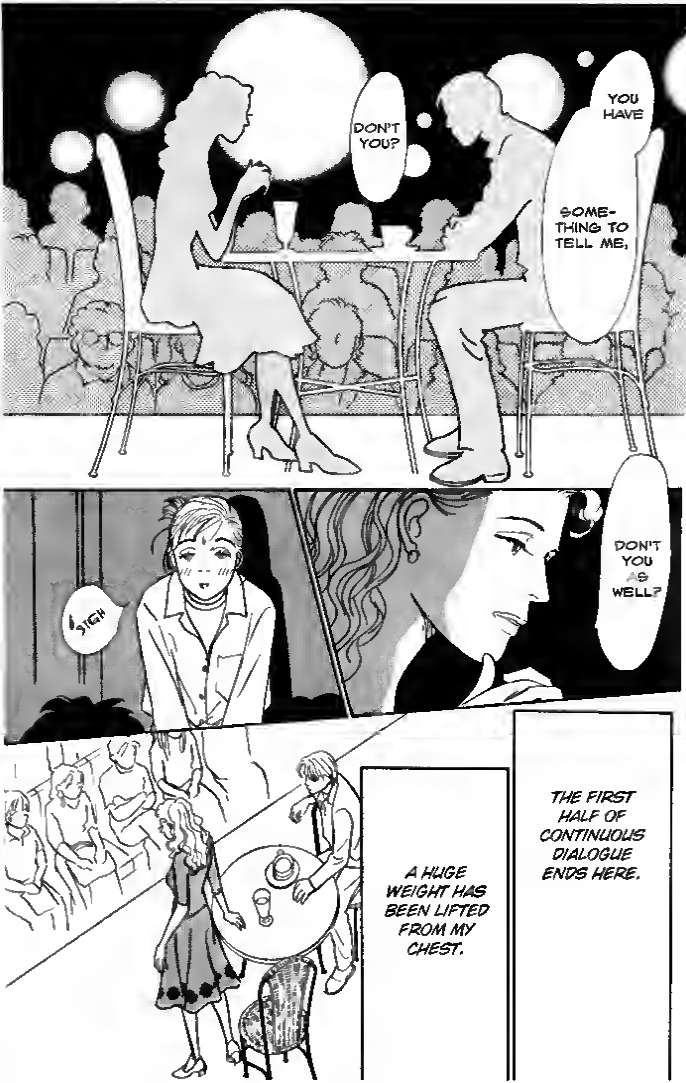
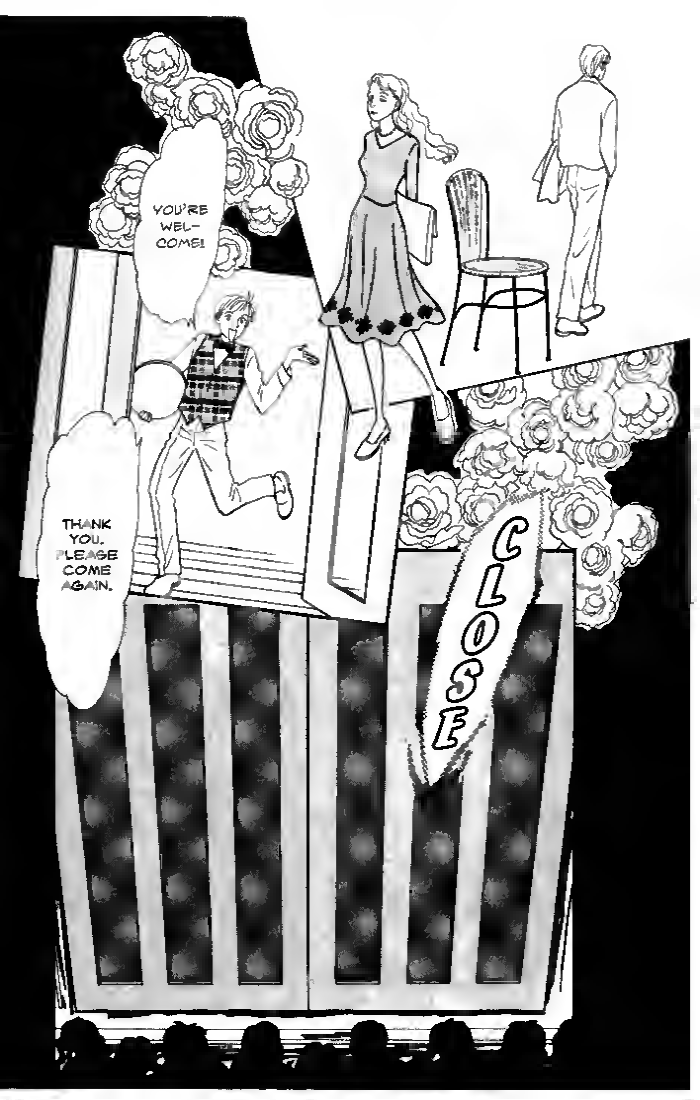
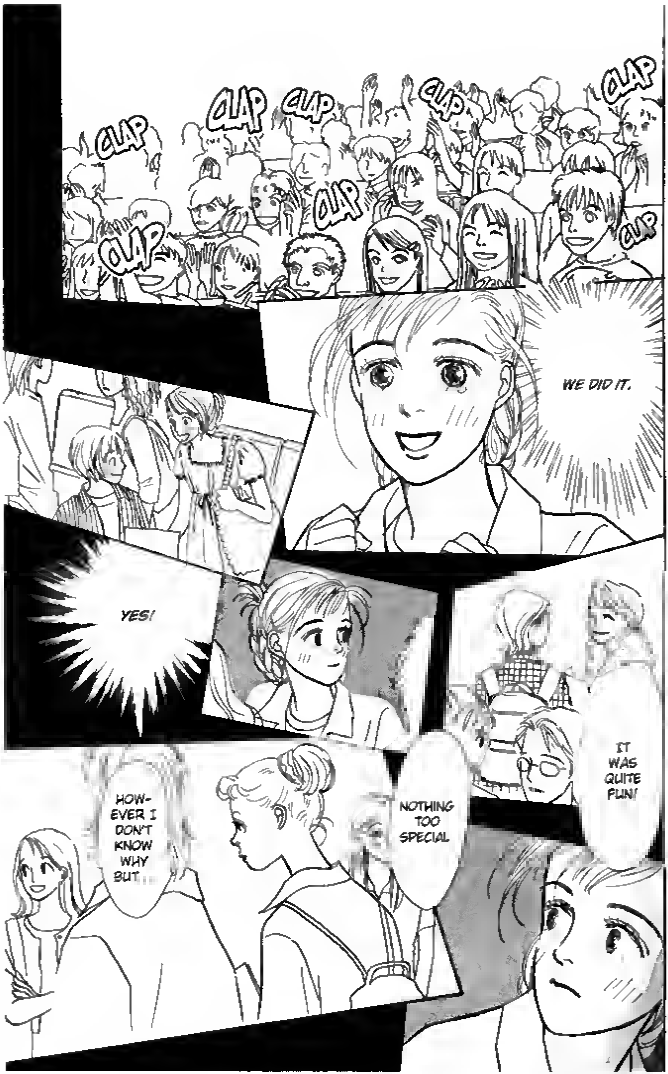
ACHOO
SINCE I WALKED IN HERE,

O-OHARA-SAN
!?


YES, WE KEEP TALKING ABOUT THE GOOD OLD DAYS.


DON'T YOU?
YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL ME,
SIGH
DON'T YOU AS WELL?
A HUGE WEIGHT HAS BEEN LIFTED FROM MY CHEST.
THE FIRST HALF OF CONTINUOUS DIALOGUE ENDS HERE.

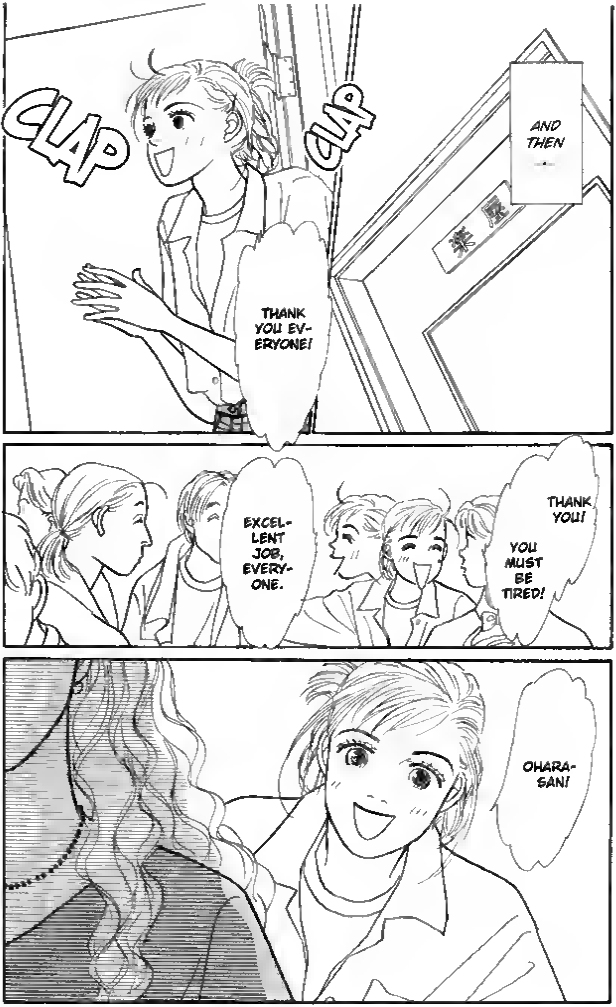

YOU'RE WEL-COME!
THANK YOU. PLEASE COME AGAIN.
CLOSE

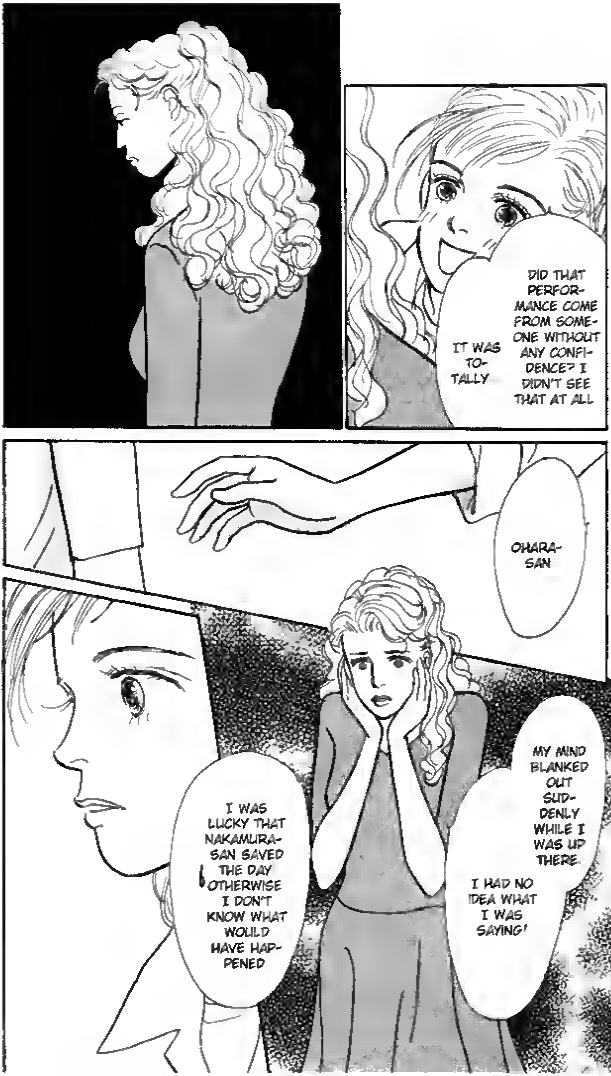

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
WE DID IT.
YES!
IT WAS QUITE FUN!
NOTHING TOO SPECIAL
HOW-EVER I DON'T KNOW WHY BUT

THE LAST SCENE STRANGELY CAPTURED ME...
RUSH
Eh..?
?
?
AH, THIS IS NOT ENOUGH
Happy

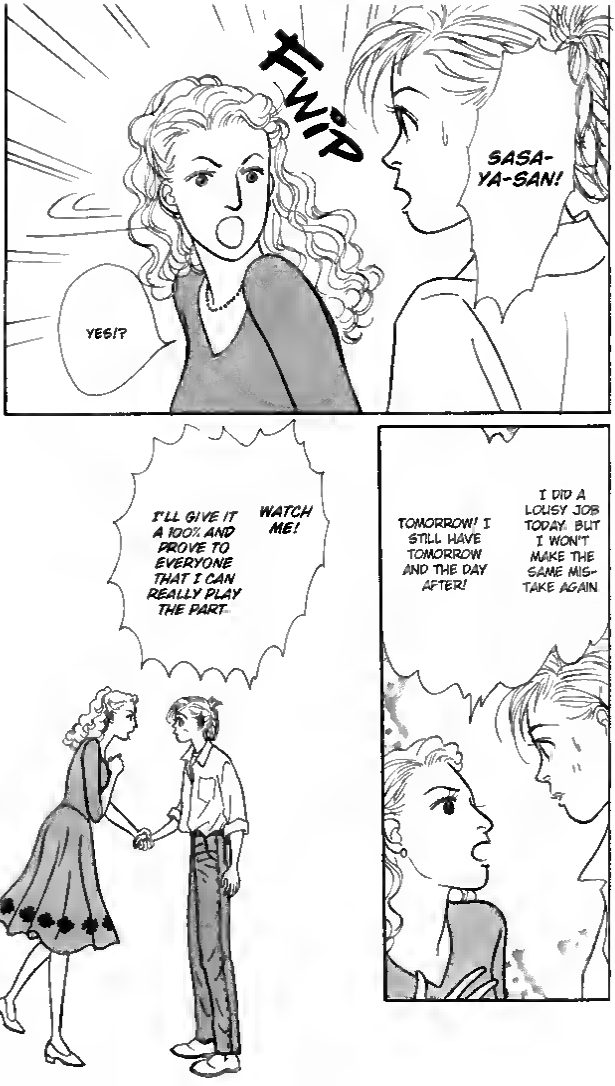
サンダル大好きっ！

夏用に
黄色の
サンダルを
買った
素足で
はくと
きもちいい
でも
すぐ よごれちゃう


CLAP
CLAP
THANK YOU EV-ERYONE!
AND THEN...
楽屋
EXCEL-LENT JOB, EVERY-ONE.
THANK YOU!
YOU MUST BE TIRED!
OHARA-SAN!


DID THAT PERFORMANCE COME FROM SOMEONE WITHOUT ANY CONFIDENCE? I DIDN'T SEE THAT AT ALL
IT WAS TOTALLY
OHARA-SAN
MY MIND BLANKED OUT SUDDENLY WHILE I WAS UP THERE.
I HAD NO IDEA WHAT I WAS SAYING!
I WAS LUCKY THAT NAKAMURA-SAN SAVED THE DAY OTHERWISE I DON'T KNOW WHAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
RELAX THAT WAS NOTHING
MY FIRST PERFORMANCE WAS MUCH WORSE
HOW AWFUL!
THIS PROVES THAT I HAVEN'T BEEN COMPLETELY INTO THE PLAY.
AFTER THOSE COUNTLESS REHEARSALS
I WAS SO SURE I KNEW THE SCRIPT LIKE THE BACK OF MY HAND!
Holly
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT
I SCREWED UP SO EASILY!


FWIP
SASA-YA-SAN!
YES!?
I DID A LOUSY JOB TODAY. BUT I WON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE AGAIN
TOMORROW! I STILL HAVE TOMORROW AND THE DAY AFTER!
WATCH ME!
I'LL GIVE IT A 100% AND PROVE TO EVERYONE THAT I CAN REALLY PLAY THE PART.

I'm sorry
my back
SHE..
EVERY-
THING I
WANTED TO
SAY TO
HER
HAS
JUST
SAID TO
ME..

こわい話大好きっ！

小さい頃 夜に起きると
めちゃおばけが
死ぬほどこわくて
トイレに行けず
外でしてた

外すがこわいって

今はおばけ以上に
こわいものが
ある

毎月毎月
ヒトヒトーのように
おしよせる
ガケっぷち生活

あぁ今月も
銀行さんに
断られてもらっちゃった
ほんとうに
ありがとう
!!

相当さまは
そんなにも
こわいなんだ…

THAT I KNOW A STAR WHEN I SEE ONE?
WINK
HEY, HEY, SAVE THAT SILLY HAPPY FACE FOR AFTER THE FESTIVAL
JOY
WOW
I FEEL STRANGE-LY PROUD
HOW WAS IT? NOVICE DIRECTOR SASAYA YUU, DO YOU FEEL THE PIECE WAS SUC-CESSFUL?
Oh
CHIEF

YOU DIDN'T ANSWER MY QUESTION. DO YOU THINK THAT THIS PRODUCTION WAS SUCCESSFUL?
HEY HEY, DIDN'T YOU WATCH THE PLAY AS PART OF THE AUDIENCE?
ALL THE SOUND EFFECTS CAME ON QUEUE. THE ACTING WAS FLAWLESS AND
YES! THE LIGHTING WAS PERFECT. EVERYTHING WENT AS PLANNED.
I WASN'T WATCHING IT AS PART OF THE AUDIENCE
I WAS SO NERVOUS
I WAS CONCERNED ABOUT NOT MAKING ANY MISTAKES
AH, I...

ALL I HEARD WAS THE AUDIENCE'S APPLAUSE.
.....
DOES THAT MEAN THEY ENJOYED MY PLAY?
CHIEF, WHAT DID YOU FEEL AFTER YOUR FIRST PRODUCTION?
I'M TYPICALLY CALM AND COMPOSED SO I KEPT A COOL HEAD AND WATCHED AND EVALUATED IT FROM THE AUDIENCE'S PERSPECTIVE
WOW, THAT'S QUITE IMPRESSIVE.
OF COURSE.
GYP
THEN
IN YOUR CALM EYES,
HOW WAS MY PLAY?
Ah.
LISTEN.
I DON'T CRITICIZE OTHER PEOPLE'S PRODUCTIONS.

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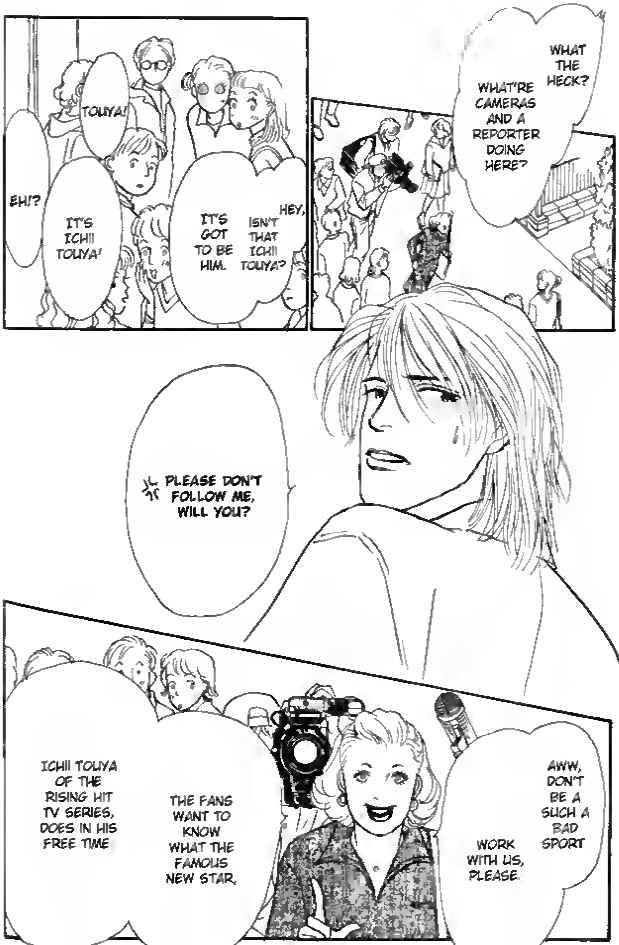
IF IT ISN'T, NO ONE WILL GRACE YOUR THEATER. THAT'S THE EASIEST WAY TO EVALUATE HOW GOOD A PLAY IS
IF IT'S "GOOD", PEOPLE WILL NATURALLY GO TO WATCH YOUR PLAY
ARE NEVER AS ACCURATE AS AN ORDINARY AUDIENCE MEMBER'S "GOOD" OR "NO GOOD".
COMMENTS FROM CRITIQUES AND EXPERTS,
HOW IS YOUR FIRST EXPERIENCE TREATING YOU?
OH! GARANDOU'S ROOKIE DIRECTOR.
Easy but true.
AH, THAT'S TRUE.

ha ha ha ha
ha ha ha ha
TOMORROW IS OUR LAST DAY... WELL, I GUESS I COULD ASK SOME OF THOSE WHO COULDN'T GET TICKETS TO MY SHOW TO SWING BY YOURS
OUR SHOW WAS A CHAOS TODAY. THE THEATER WAS PACKED AND THERE WAS NOWHERE TO STAND
GOOD JOB! GOOD JOB!
AS EXPECTED OF GARANDOU, THE THEATER WAS HALF-FULL EVEN WITH AN UNKNOWN DIRECTOR.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM.
.....
Ou really haven't changed at all.
OK! LET'S DO OUR BEST TOMORROW... YOU KNOW... IT'S NEVER FUN TO PUT ON PLAYS NEXT TO A CHILD'S THEATER.
Whoa
THIS GUY REALLY KNOWS HOW TO PUSH IT, DOESN'T HE?

NOTHING.
FU FU
WHAT'S WRONG, CHIEF?
FU FU
WHOOOM
HEY!
WHAT'S THAT?
THE THEATER NEXT DOOR SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN A LARGER AUDIENCE THAN IT DID YESTERDAY.
EH? YOU THINK?
I'M NOT FEELING THAT
OUR THEATER IS PACKED FULL AGAIN
HMMM
YOU BET!


TOUYA!
EH!?
IT'S ICHII TOUYA!
IT'S GOT TO BE HIM.
HEY, ISN'T THAT ICHII TOUYA?
WHAT THE HECK?
WHAT'RE CAMERAS AND A REPORTER DOING HERE?
PLEASE DON'T FOLLOW ME, WILL YOU?
ICHII TOUYA OF THE RISING HIT TV SERIES, DOES IN HIS FREE TIME
THE FANS WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE FAMOUS NEW STAR,
WORK WITH US, PLEASE.
AWW, DON'T BE A SUCH A BAD SPORT

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WHAT'S SO FABULOUS?
COME ON PLAY ALONG, YOU'RE DOING FABULOUS
YOU'LL SEE WHAT I MEAN.
IT'LL ALSO BE GREAT PUBLICITY FOR YOUR SHOW EVERYBODY WINS.
CAMERA!
CAMERA!
YOU CAN'T GET MORE DRAMATIC THAN THAT.
AS A TV STAR, YOU STILL CAN'T REPRESS YOUR PASSION FOR THEATER
YOU'VE QUIT THE ELOQUENCE OF THEATER AND CAN'T GO BACK TO THE STAGE ANYMORE
OH, YOU KNOW!

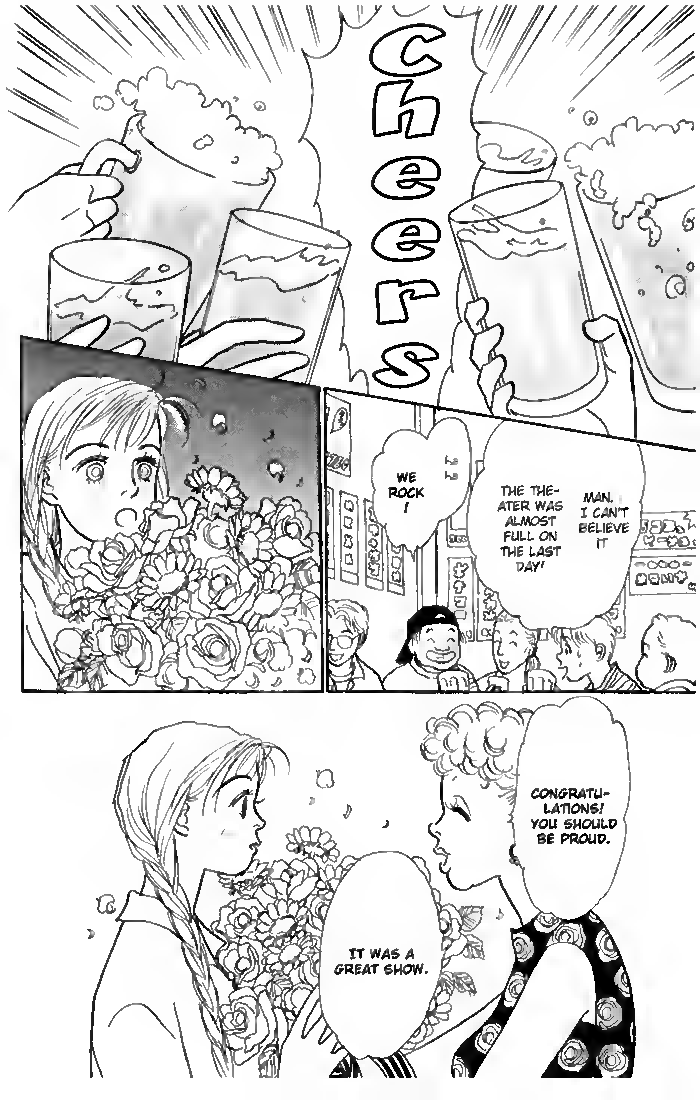
A FRIEND!?
THEN WHAT'RE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S ROLL
I'LL NEED A DRAMATIC MOOD FOR WHEN WE STEP INTO THE RECEPTION HALL.
PLEASE DON'T PUT WORDS IN MY MOUTH.
I'M JUST GOING TO SEE MY FRIEND'S PLAY!

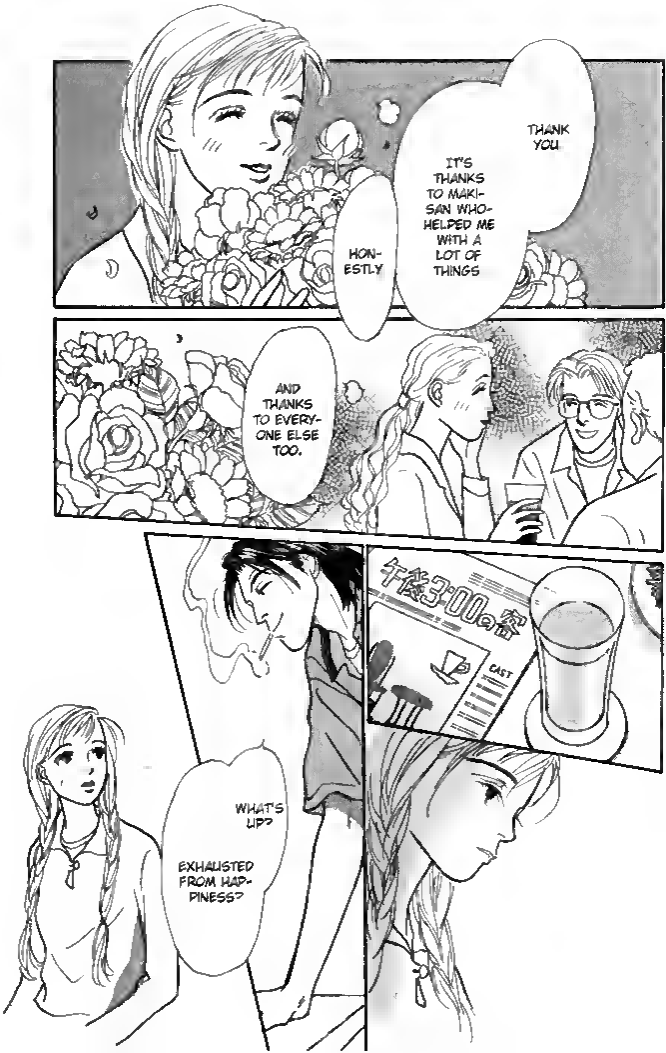
.....
165
DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE THE PLAY?
TOUYA !?
FLIP
EH!?
OH, TOUYA?
CAST
STAFF
WE'LL JUST SHOW THE PLAY'S POSTER
FINE
I THOUGHT THAT I'D GET A SCOOP!
AWW

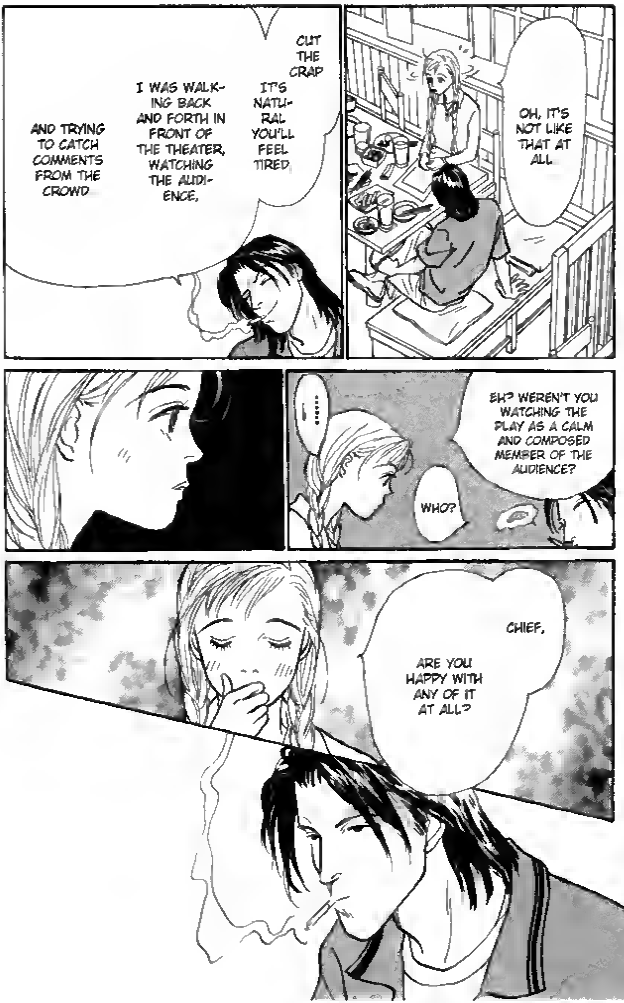
HOW CAN SOMEONE ENJOY A PLAY WITH A REPORTER AND A CAMERA OVER YOUR SHOULDER!
I DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT HAPPENED OUTSIDE THE THEATER.
BECAUSE I WAS TOO ABSORBED IN WATCHING MY FIRST PRODUCTION FROM THE EYES OF AN ORDINARY AUDIENCE.

AMAZING. SHE WAS SO MUCH BETTER TODAY!
YES ...
MY JOB ENDS WHEN THE CURTAIN IS DRAWN
ALL I COULD DO WAS TRUST THE ACTORS
AND ENJOY THE PLAY AS PART OF THE AUDIENCE
THAT'S ALL

MY PRODUCTION WENT WELL FOR THREE DAYS.
THE SUC-CESS,
THE SATIS-FACTION,
AND THE INTIMI-DATION...
THE JOY,
THEN...


Cheers
MAN, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT
THE THEATER WAS ALMOST FULL ON THE LAST DAY!
WE ROCK!
CONGRATULATIONS! YOU SHOULD BE PROUD.
IT WAS A GREAT SHOW.


THANK YOU
IT'S THANKS TO MAKI-SAN WHO-HELPED ME WITH A LOT OF THINGS
HON-ESTLY
AND THANKS TO EVERY-ONE ELSE TOO.
CAST
WHAT'S UP?
EXHAUSTED FROM HAP-PINESS?


OH, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL.
CUT THE CRAP
IT'S NATURAL YOU'LL FEEL TIRED
I WAS WALKING BACK AND FORTH IN FRONT OF THE THEATER, WATCHING THE AUDIENCE,
AND TRYING TO CATCH COMMENTS FROM THE CROWD
EH? WEREN'T YOU WATCHING THE PLAY AS A CALM AND COMPOSED MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE?
WHO?
CHIEF,
ARE YOU HAPPY WITH ANY OF IT AT ALL?

ERM...
I'M HAPPY WITH IT. IT WAS UNBELIEVABLE MUCH BETTER THAN I EXPECTED
FORGET I ASKED THAT
BUT...
BUT...
WHEN I WAS WATCHING IT FROM THE AUDIENCE...
I FELT THAT
THERE WAS SOMETHING MISSING...
I WANT TO MAKE MY WORLD EVEN MORE POWERFUL
POWERFUL ENOUGH SO THAT THE AUDIENCE'S EYES WILL ALWAYS BE ON THE STAGE!
SO THAT WHILE THEY WATCH THE PLAY THEY'LL FORGET EVERYTHING ELSE
AROUND THEM

AM I BEING TOO GREEDY?
THAT'S
clink
A PLAY-WRIGHT'S GREATEST DREAM.

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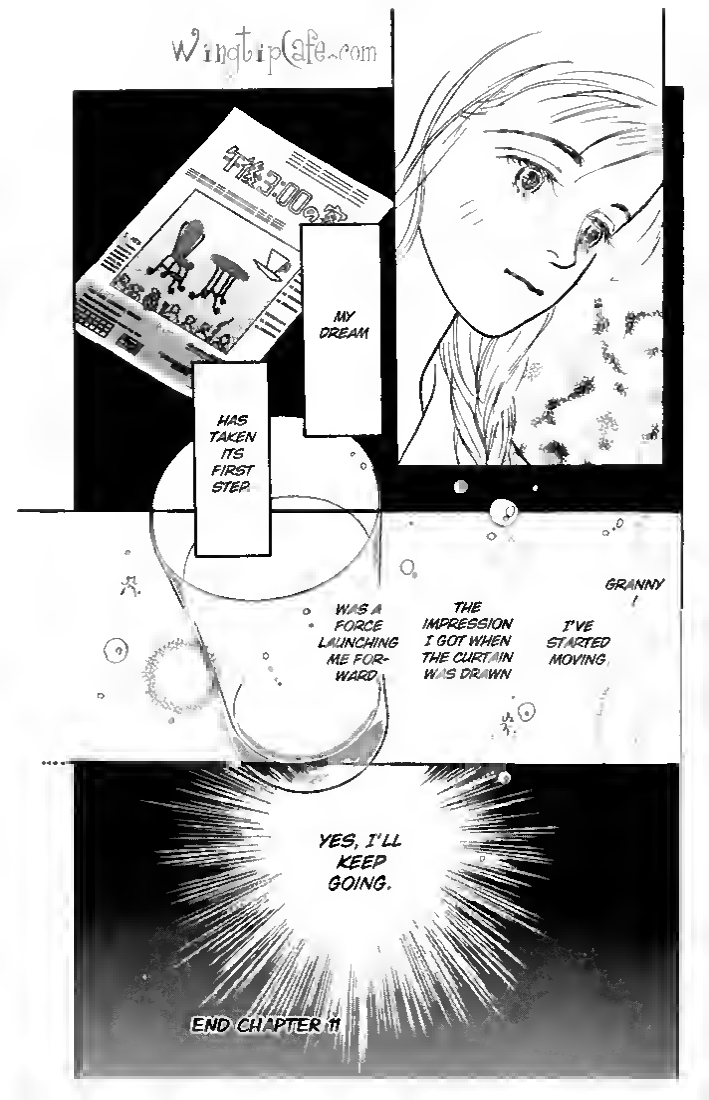
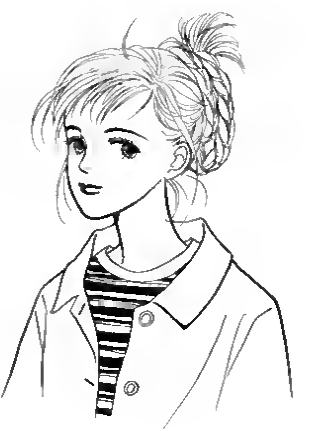

MY DREAM
HAS TAKEN ITS FIRST STEP.
GRANNY !
WAS A FORCE LAUNCHING ME FORWARD.
THE IMPRESSION I GOT WHEN THE CURTAIN WAS DRAWN
I'VE STARTED MOVING.
YES, I'LL KEEP GOING.
END CHAPTER 11



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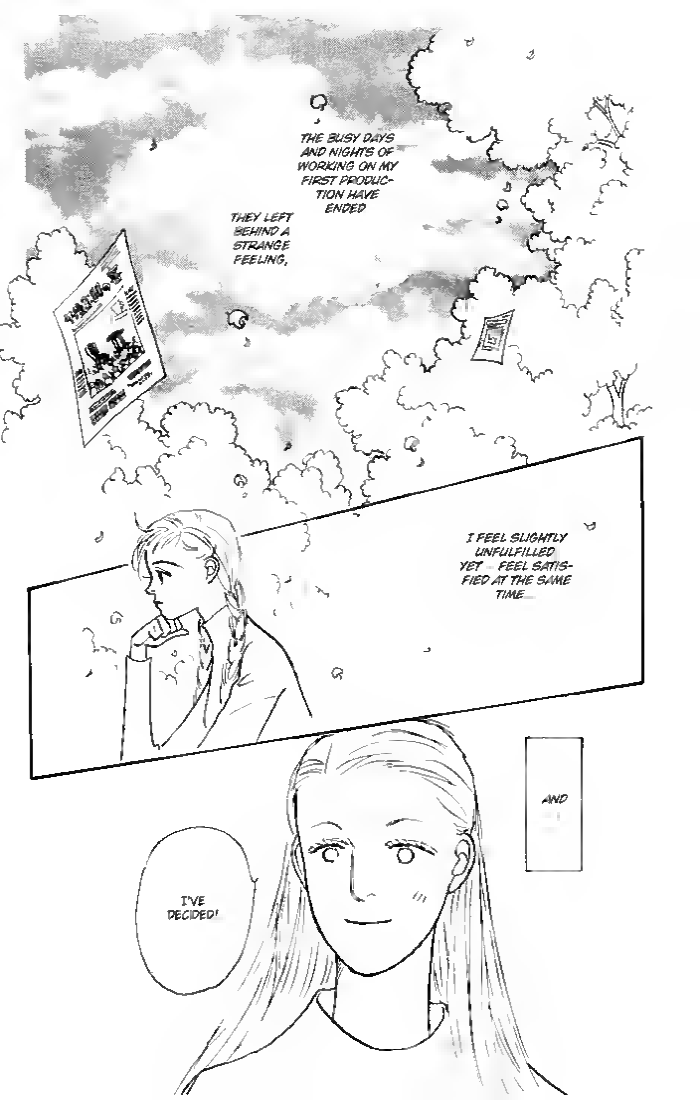
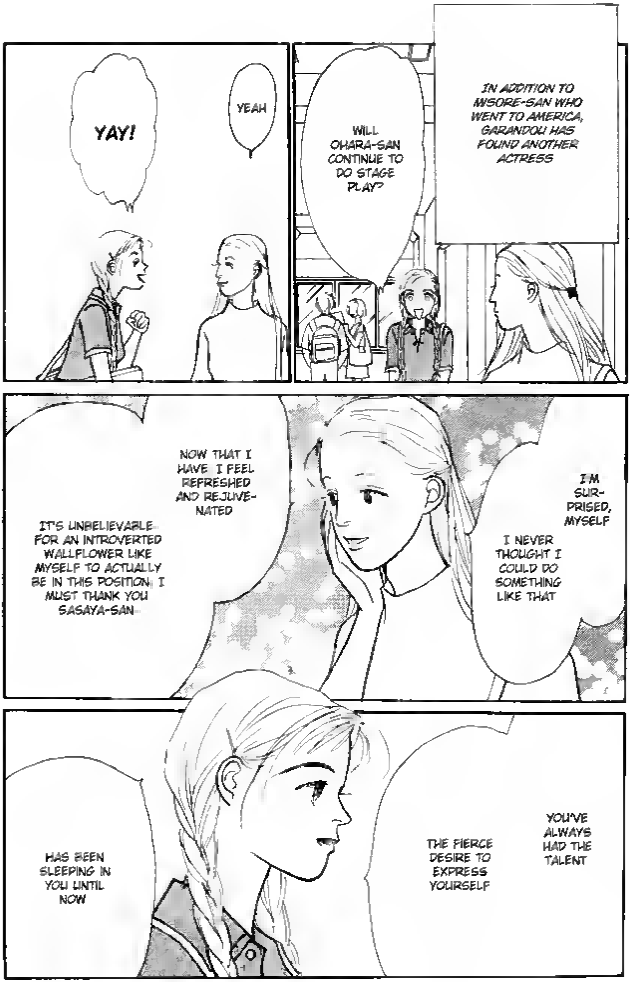
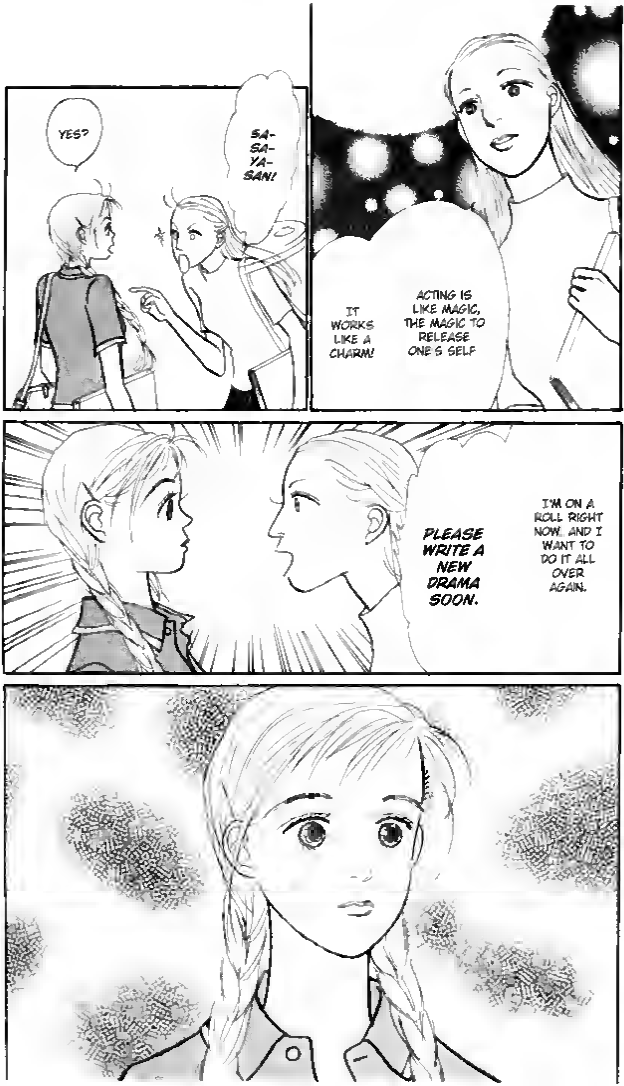
UNIT 12


THE BUSY DAYS AND NIGHTS OF WORKING ON MY FIRST PRODUCTION HAVE ENDED
THEY LEFT BEHIND A STRANGE FEELING,
I FEEL SLIGHTLY UNFULFILLED YET FEEL SATISFIED AT THE SAME TIME...
AND
I'VE DECIDED!


YAY!
YEAH
WILL OHARA-SAN CONTINUE TO DO STAGE PLAY?
IN ADDITION TO MISORE-SAN WHO WENT TO AMERICA, GARANDOU HAS FOUND ANOTHER ACTRESS
IT'S UNBELIEVABLE FOR AN INTROVERTED WALLFLOWER LIKE MYSELF TO ACTUALLY BE IN THIS POSITION. I MUST THANK YOU SASAYA-SAN
NOW THAT I HAVE I FEEL REFRESHED AND REJUVE-NATED
I'M SUR-PRISED, MYSELF
I NEVER THOUGHT I COULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT
HAS BEEN SLEEPING IN YOU UNTIL NOW
THE FIERCE DESIRE TO EXPRESS YOURSELF
YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD THE TALENT

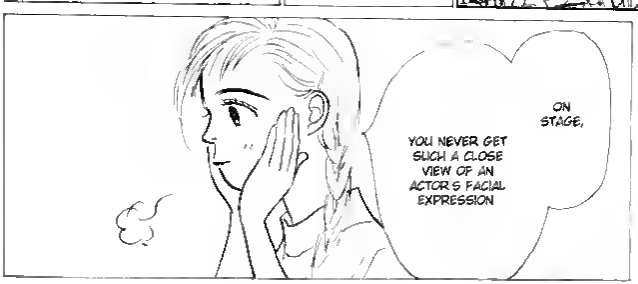

SA-SA-YA-SAN!
YES?
ACTING IS LIKE MAGIC, THE MAGIC TO RELEASE ONE'S SELF
IT WORKS LIKE A CHARM!
I'M ON A ROLL RIGHT NOW, AND I WANT TO DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN.
PLEASE WRITE A NEW DRAMA SOON.

CHIEF DROPPED THIS PROJECT ON MY LAP OUT OF THE BLUE AND I RUSHED THROUGH IT TO MEET THE DEADLINES
I DON'T KNOW...
WHY?
UNTIL NOW, HARANDOU WAS LED BY SHIMAMURA SHOUGO AS ITS SOLE DIRECTOR AND PLAYWRIGHT.
I JUST...
I SEE. THEN I SHOULD TALK TO SHIMAMURA-SAN.

NOT THAT I'M TRULY THINKING OF THE POSSIBILITY.
BUT EVERY TIME I CONSIDER IT...
A NEW PRODUCTION?
ALL I SEE IS TOUYA-SAN'S FACE.
I SAW IT ON TV, THE SHOW "AROUND THE STARS"
THE PLAY THAT TOUYA-SAN WANTED TO WATCH IN HIS FREE TIME WAS YOURS RIGHT?
OH! YOSHISA-WA-SAN
GRAB

STOP ACTING ALL INNOCENT!
YOU'RE SUCH AN OPPORTUNIST!
HAH
TOUYA-SAN WENT TO SEE MY PLAY?
REALLY?
YOU TRIED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOUYA-SAN WHO'S HAVING A HARD TIME ADJUSTING TO HIS NEW LIFE AS A TV STAR!
TOUYA-SAN STILL LOVES THEATER.
NO MATTER HOW CRAPPY YOUR PLAY WAS, THERE WAS NO WAY THAT HE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HELP HIMSELF FROM TRYING TO CATCH A GLIMPSE!
KYA!
SASAYA, YOU DESPICABLE BITCH!!
C-calm down.
YO-SHI-SA-WA-SAN!
fume
fume
WHEN DID
TOUYA-SAN GO TO SEE MY PLAY?

EVEN THOUGH I WAS BUSY WITH MY FIRST PRODUCTION, I NEVER MISSED TOUMA-SAN'S SHOW.
HOW FABU-LOUS
HE MUST HAVE BEEN OVER-WHELMED BY HIS JOB AT THE TV STATIONS
BUT HE STILL DROPPED BY



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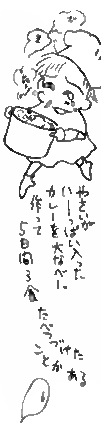
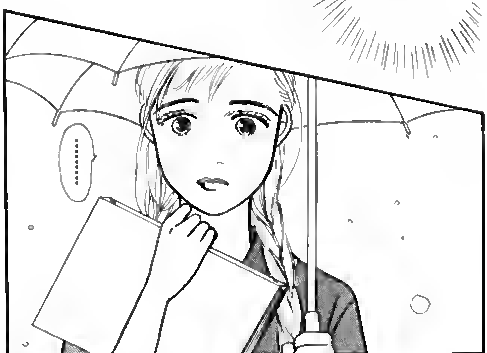
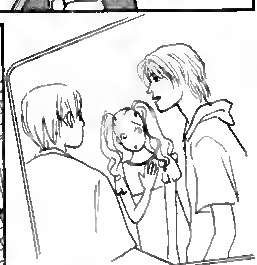
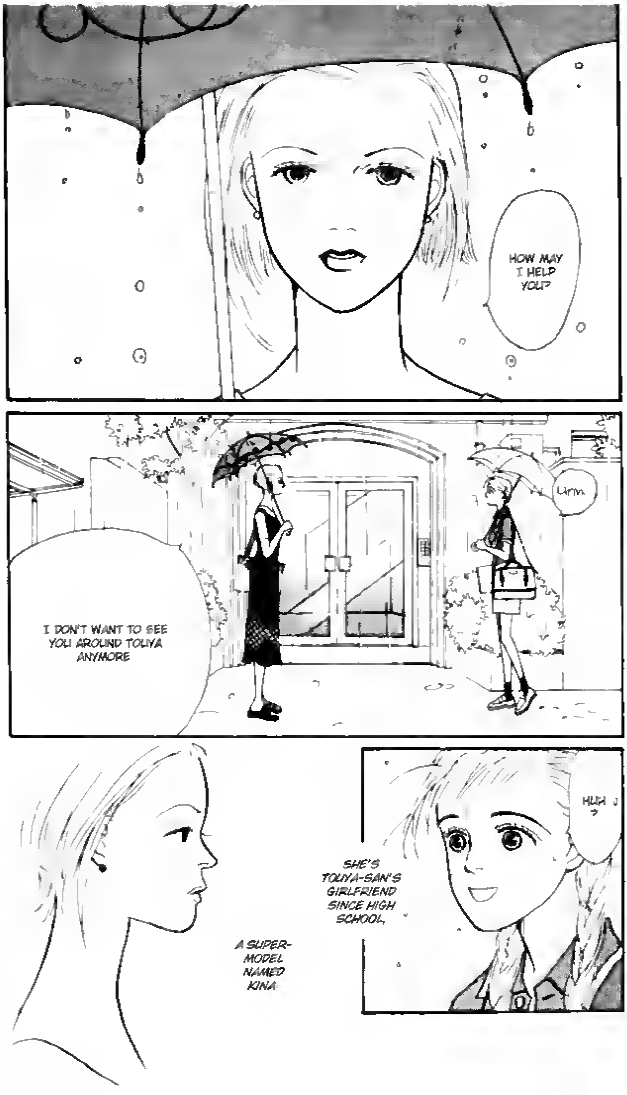
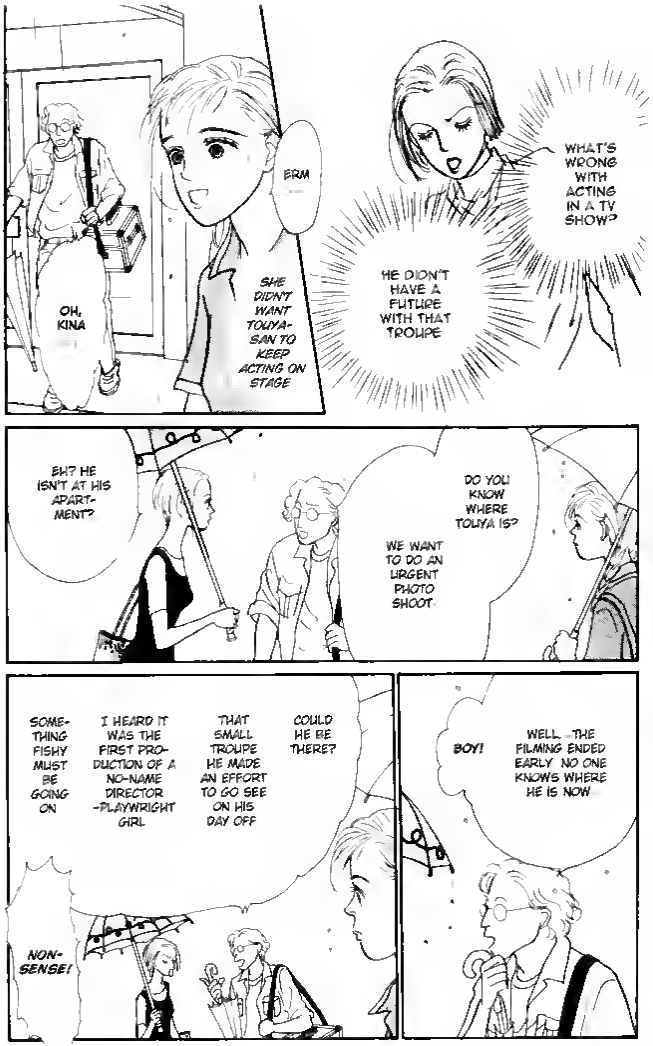


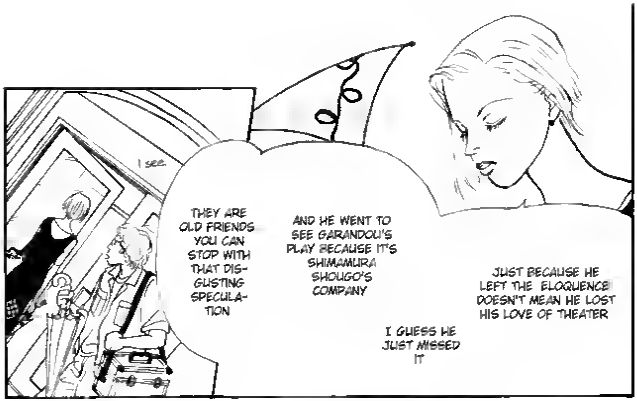


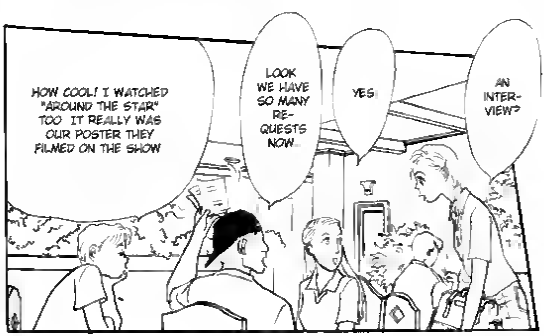


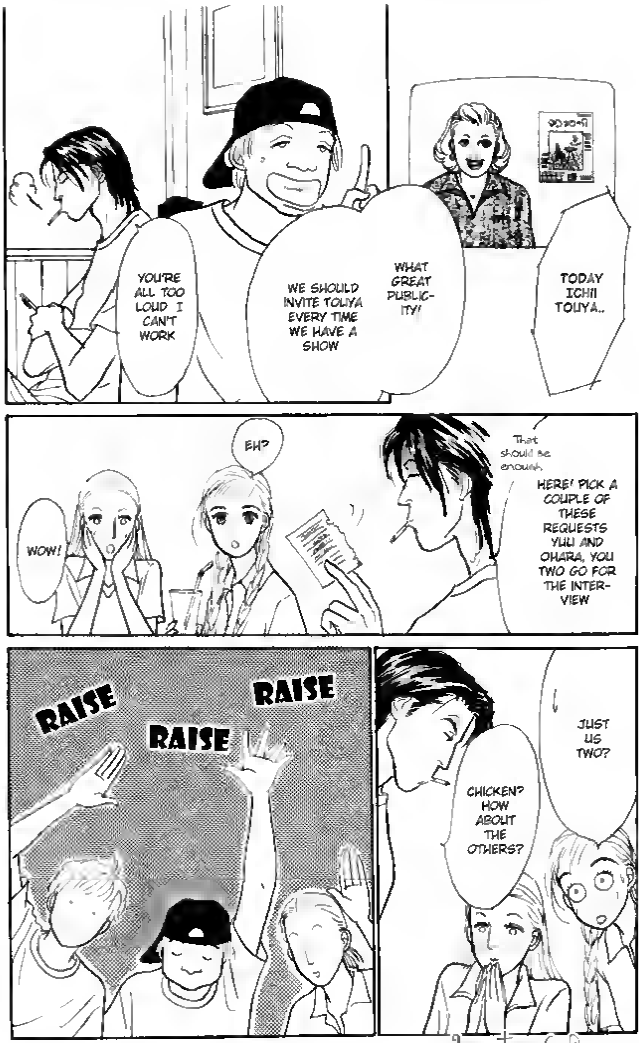
TO ME, HE'S MUCH BETTER ON STAGE THAN HE EVER WILL BE ON TV


HOW MAY I HELP YOU?
Umm.
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU AROUND TOLIYA ANYMORE
A SUPER-MODEL NAMED KINA
SHE'S TOLIYA-SAN'S GIRLFRIEND SINCE HIGH SCHOOL.
HUH ?


OH, KINA
ERM
SHE DIDN'T WANT TOLYA-SAN TO KEEP ACTING ON STAGE
HE DIDN'T HAVE A FUTURE WITH THAT TROUPE
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ACTING IN A TV SHOW?
EH? HE ISN'T AT HIS APART-MENT?
WE WANT TO DO AN URGENT PHOTO SHOOT
DO YOU KNOW WHERE TOLYA IS?
SOME-THING FISHY MUST BE GOING ON
I HEARD IT WAS THE FIRST PRO-DUCTION OF A NO-NAME DIRECTOR -PLAYWRIGHT GIRL
THAT SMALL TROUPE HE MADE AN EFFORT TO GO SEE ON HIS DAY OFF
COULD HE BE THERE?
NON-SENSE!
BOY!
WELL.. THE FILMING ENDED EARLY NO ONE KNOWS WHERE HE IS NOW


I see.
THEY ARE OLD FRIENDS YOU CAN STOP WITH THAT DISGUSTING SPECULATION
AND HE WENT TO SEE GARANDOU'S PLAY BECAUSE IT'S SHIMAMURA SHOUGO'S COMPANY
JUST BECAUSE HE LEFT THE ELOQUENCE DOESN'T MEAN HE LOST HIS LOVE OF THEATER
I GUESS HE JUST MISSED IT


HOW COOL! I WATCHED "AROUND THE STAR" TOO IT REALLY WAS OUR POSTER THEY FILMED ON THE SHOW
LOOK WE HAVE SO MANY REQUESTS NOW
YES
AN INTERVIEW?


TODAY ICHII TOUYA..
WHAT GREAT PUBLIC-ITY!
WE SHOULD INVITE TOUYA EVERY TIME WE HAVE A SHOW
YOU'RE ALL TOO LOUD I CAN'T WORK
That should be enough.
HERE! PICK A COUPLE OF THESE REQUESTS YUU AND OHARA, YOU TWO GO FOR THE INTER-VIEW
EH?
WOW!
RAISE
RAISE
RAISE
JUST US TWO?
CHICKEN? HOW ABOUT THE OTHERS?

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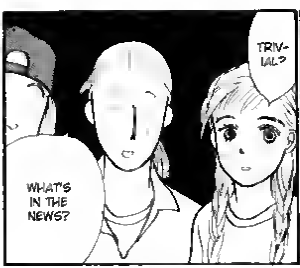
GRAN-
NY
EVEN THOUGH EVERYONE WAS TENSE AND NER-VOUS WE TALKED ABOUT
PAOLA
PAOLA
IN OUR FIRST INTERVIEW
OUR DREAMS
THE PRO-DUC-TION AND
WITH JOY SPARKING IN OUR EYES!
.....

CLICK
STOP


TRIV-IAL?
WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

UHM, I'M NOT INTERESTED IN THESE TRIVIAL DETAILS. WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME MORE ABOUT WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

DOES HE HAVE ANY LOVE INTEREST. ANYONE HE'S SPENDING TIME ALONE WITH. THAT KIND OF STUFF.
LIKE YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ICHI! TOLIYA. HOW OFTEN DOES HE DROP BY?
YUP. SOMETHING INTERESTING HAS GOT TO BE GOING ON BEHIND THE CURTAINS

.....
.....
.....

INTERVIEW, MY ASS. WE TOLD HER A GAZILLION THINGS ABOUT THEATER AND WHAT WE DO AND THEY DIDN'T EVEN RAISE AN EYEBROW.
yeah.
yep.
I KNEW IT WAS WEIRD.
FUZZ
ALL THEY WANT IS GOSSIP ABOUT TOLYA, THAT'S ALL
WHAT?
GOSSIP ABOUT ME?

Good job, good job.
It's really him.
NAH. NOTHING. THANKS FOR SWINGING BY OUR THEATER. YOU DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TO STEP INSIDE AND WE STILL GOT ALL THE FIREWORKS
TOUYA-SAN
OH
SHOU-GO-SAN MUST BE PISSED
SORRY. IT'S MY FAULT. I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT A REPORTER WOULD TAG ALONG
SAVE THE SARCASM
YES. THANKS.
IT LOOKS LIKE IT GOT A GOOD REVIEW. THOUGH AND LOTS OF SPECTATORS. GOOD FOR YOU.
I MISSED YOUR SHOW. WHAT A SHAME
OH SURE. SHOUGO-SAN WAS REALLY PISSED. HE SAID HE COULDN'T WORK WITH ALL THOSE PHONE CALLS FROM MAGAZINES
IT WAS GOOD FOR US THE REPORTERS GAVE US INTERVIEWS
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL

MY PLEASURE
?
THANK YOU, TOUYA-SAN
FOR YOUR ADVICE
YOU HELPED ME WHEN I WAS FRUSTRATED TOO
SEEING YOU WORK SO PASSIONATELY GAVE ME WILLPOWER TO KEEP DOING MY JOB
WILLPOWER?
YEAH

SO THE TV SHOW ISN'T GOING WELL FOR YOU?
I JUST CAN'T GET USED TO IT
ART IN FILM I'M CONSTANTLY SURROUNDED BY THE FILM CREW AND HAVE THE CAMERA AS AUDIENCE
I DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING,
THE CAMERA WILL CATCH IT. EVEN THE SMALLEST DETAIL. MY FACIAL EXPRESSION.
LOOK OVER HERE
WE'LL BE USING CAMERA #2

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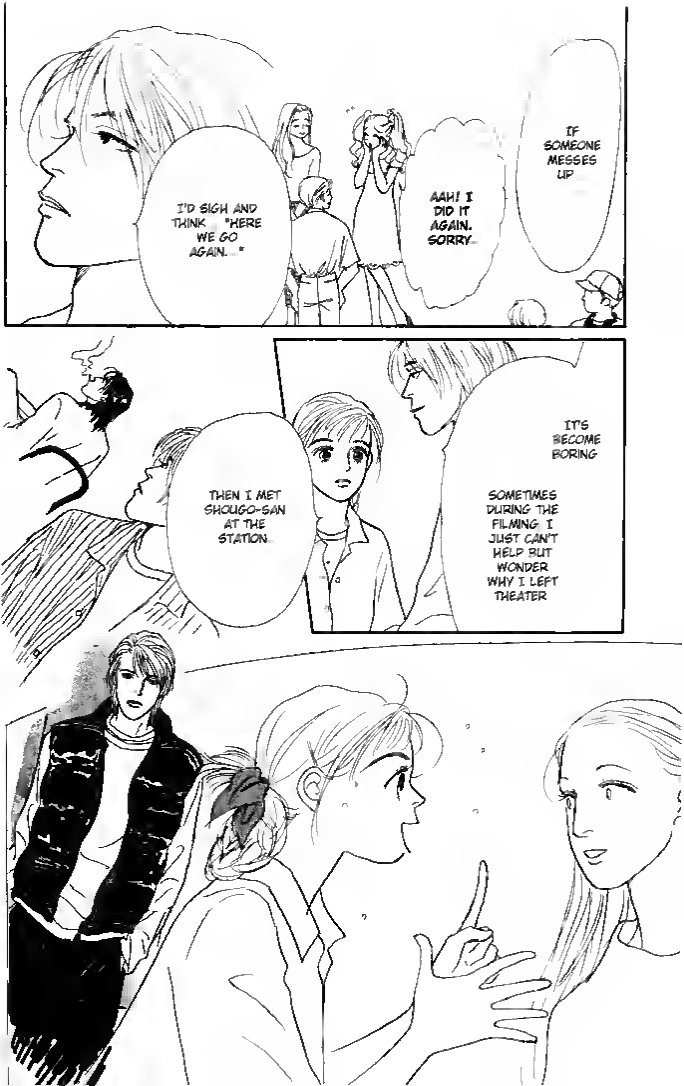
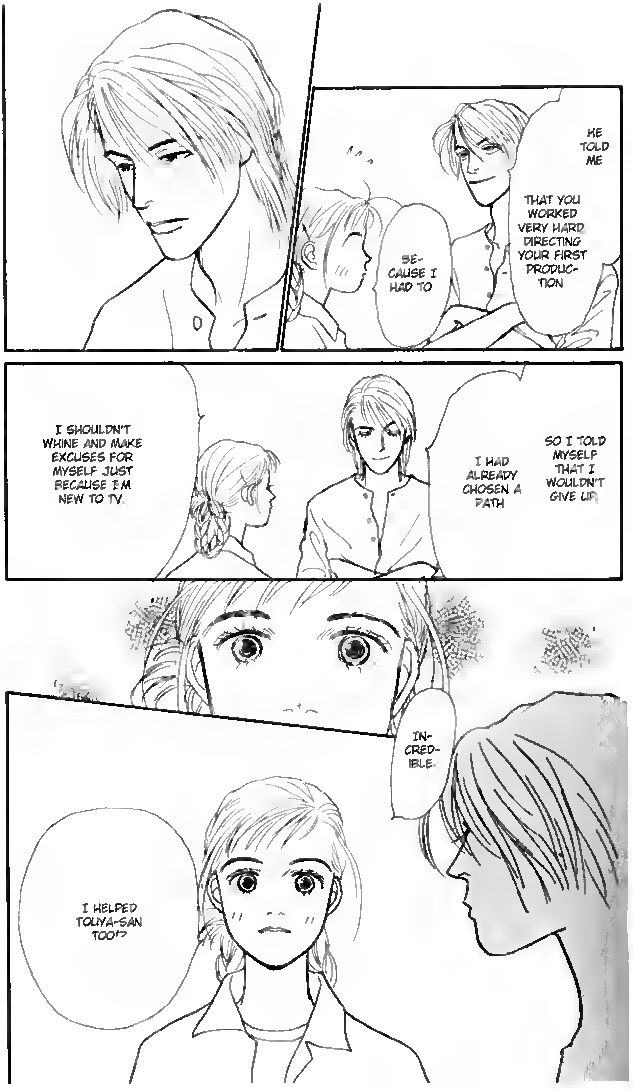

IF SOMEONE MESSES UP...
AAH! I DID IT AGAIN. SORRY...
I'D SIGH AND THINK, "HERE WE GO AGAIN..."
IT'S BECOME BORING
SOMETIMES DURING THE FILMING I JUST CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER WHY I LEFT THEATER
THEN I MET SHOUGO-SAN AT THE STATION.


HE TOLD ME
THAT YOU WORKED VERY HARD DIRECTING YOUR FIRST PRODUCTION
BECAUSE I HAD TO
SO I TOLD MYSELF THAT I WOULDN'T GIVE UP.
I HAD ALREADY CHOSEN A PATH
I SHOULDN'T WHINE AND MAKE EXCUSES FOR MYSELF JUST BECAUSE I'M NEW TO TV.
INCREDIBLE.
I HELPED TOUYA-SAN TOO!?

MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WHO DON'T HAVE TO GIVE A DAMN. IF THEY DON'T LIKE WHAT THEY SEE THEY CAN JUST FLIP THE SWITCH AND EVERYTHING IS GONE THAT KIND OF AUDIENCE...
?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TELEVISION?
YES, BECAUSE OF YOU. I SNAPPED OUT OF IT.
RIGHT?
HOW COULD I SAY BEING ON TV IS BORING?
GRANNY, I'M A FAN OF ICH!! TOLYA.

EVEN THOUGH HE'S NOT ON STAGE ANYMORE,
I'M HAPPY FOR HIM
AS LONG AS HE HAS FUN ACTING, AS LONG AS HE ENJOYS REACHING FOR A NEW GOAL
BUT...
SO .

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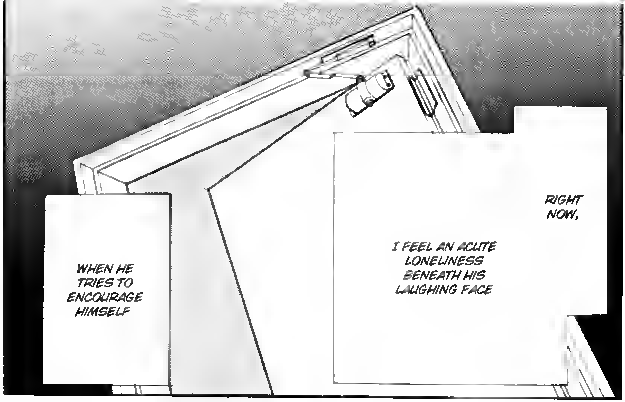
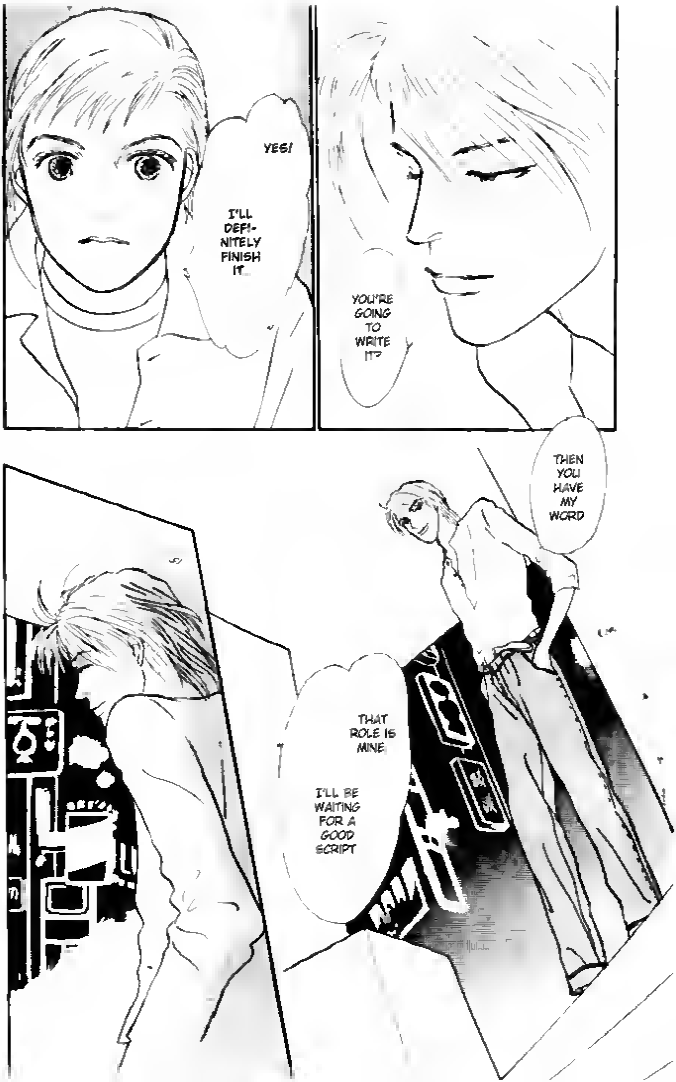
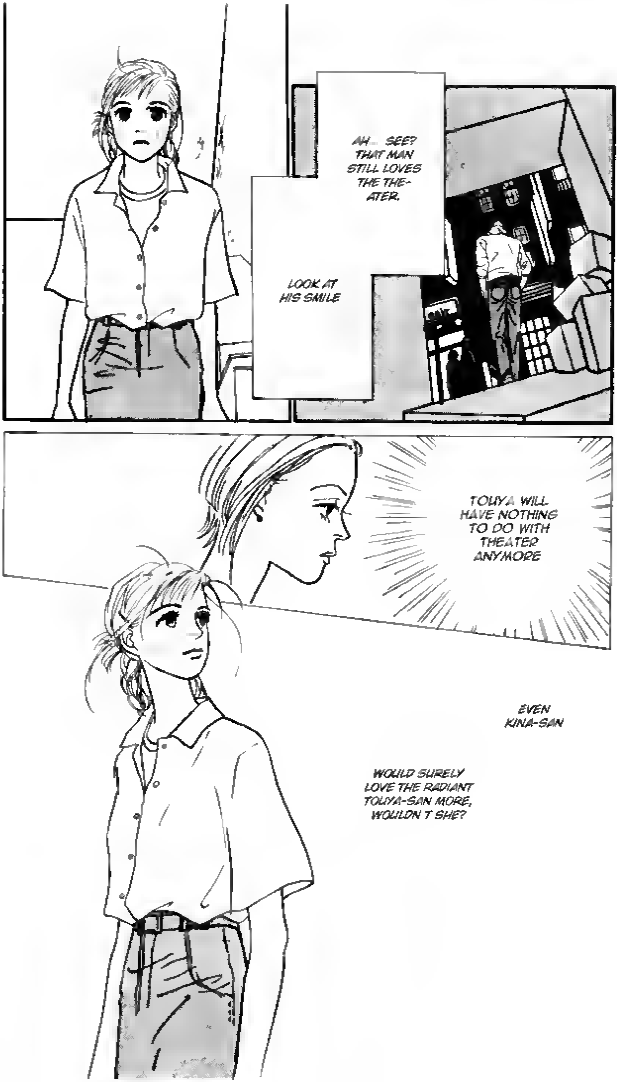

WHEN HE TRIES TO ENCOURAGE HIMSELF
I FEEL AN ACUTE LONELINESS BENEATH HIS LAUGHING FACE
RIGHT NOW,

TOUYA -SAN
THERE-FORE

DO YOU REMEMBER
THE PLAY I SAID I WANTED TO WRITE
AND HAVE YOU STAR IN?
'THE AGE-CHANGING MOUNTAIN PASS'.
YES
IF I WRITE THIS PLAY, WILL TOUYA-SAN REALLY ACT IT?


YES!
I'LL DEFINITELY FINISH IT
YOU'RE GOING TO WRITE IT?
THEN YOU HAVE MY WORD
THAT ROLE IS MINE
I'LL BE WAITING FOR A GOOD SCRIPT


AH... SEE? THAT MAN STILL LOVES THE THEATER.
LOOK AT HIS SMILE
TOLYA WILL HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THEATER ANYMORE
EVEN KINA-SAN
WOULD SURELY LOVE THE RADIANT TOLYA-SAN MORE, WOULDN'T SHE?

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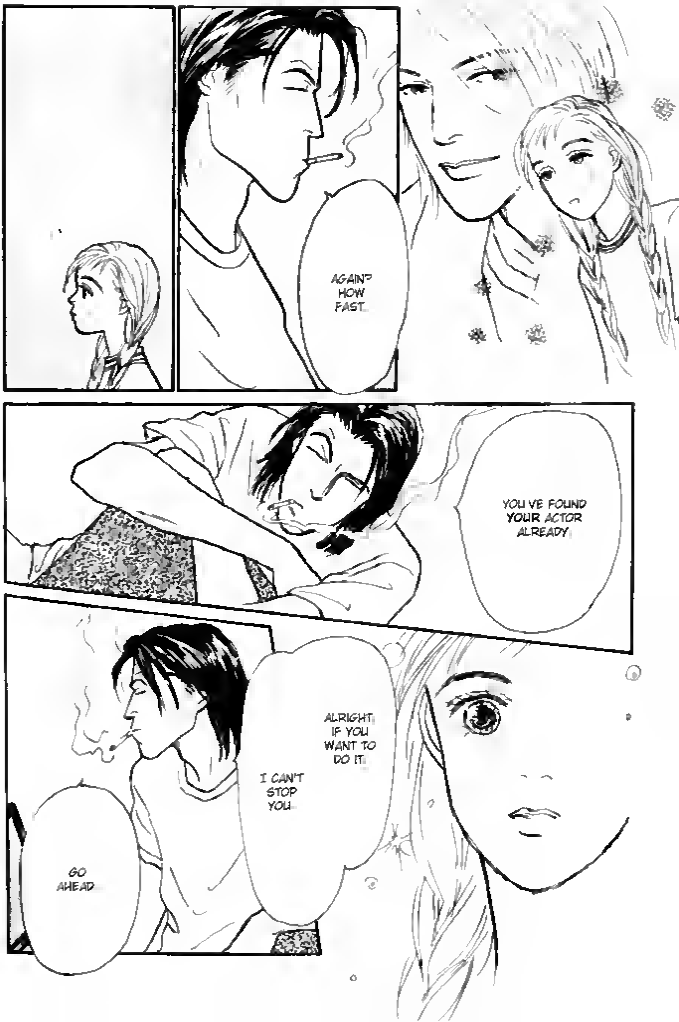
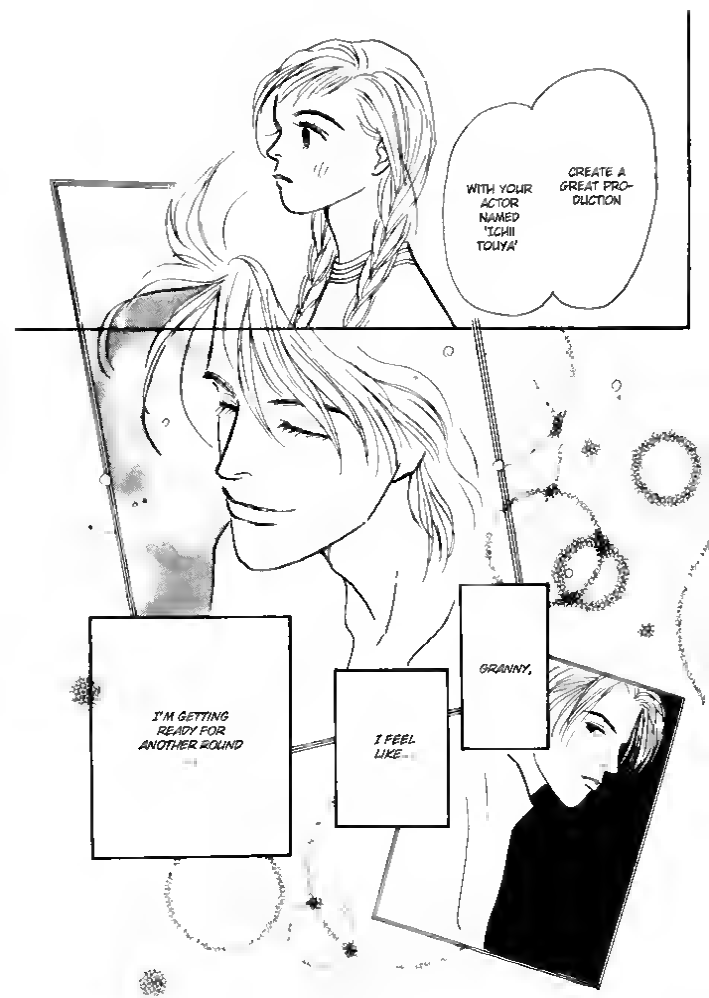
ALL THAT'S LEFT
IS THE PERMISSION FROM THE CHIEF OF GARANDOU
PLEASE GIVE ME THE CHANCE
I WANT TO WRITE A PLAY STARRING TOLYA-SAN
HM?
WHATEVER IT TAKES,
I WANT HIM TO ACT IN MY PLAY.


AGAIN? HOW FAST.
YOU'VE FOUND YOUR ACTOR ALREADY.
ALRIGHT. IF YOU WANT TO DO IT.
I CAN'T STOP YOU.
GO AHEAD.



End chapter 12

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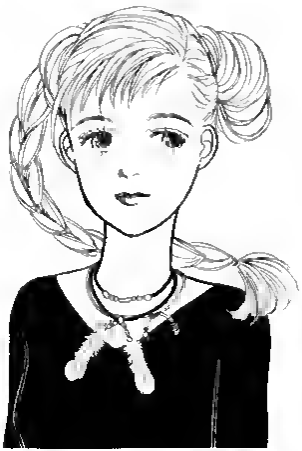
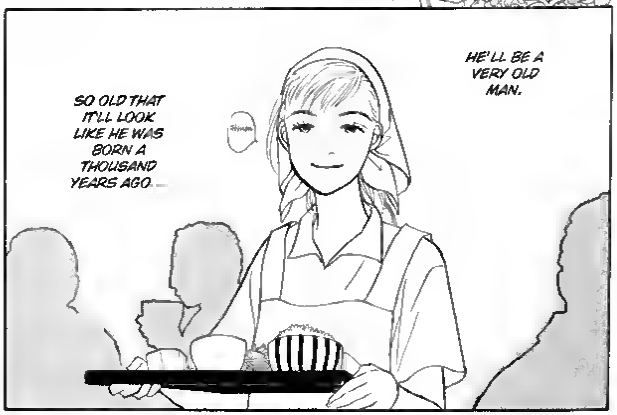
"THE AGE-CHANGING MOUNTAIN PASS!"
I'LL DEFINITELY FINISH IT.
A GOOD SCRIPT

Bolo Bat!





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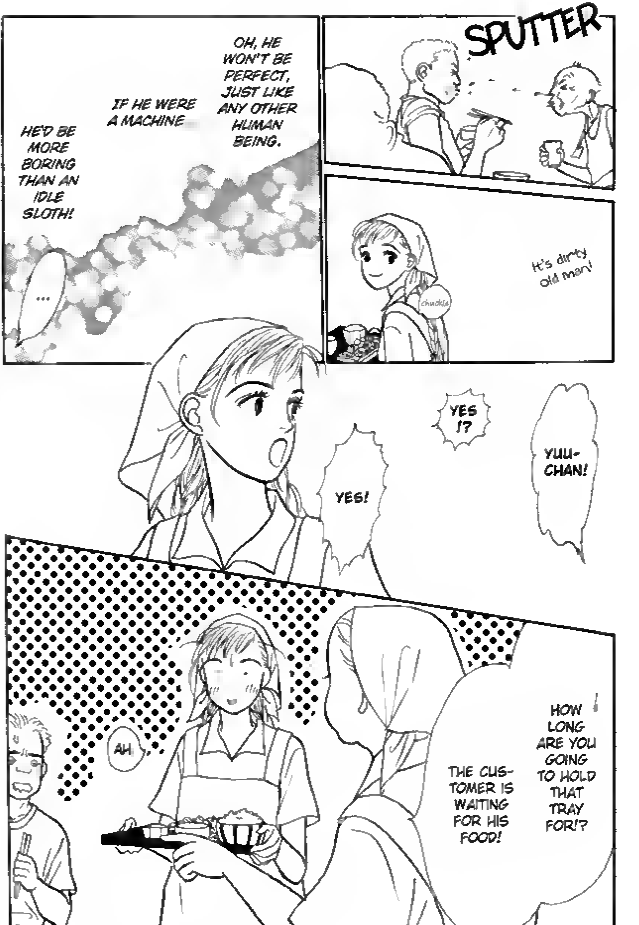
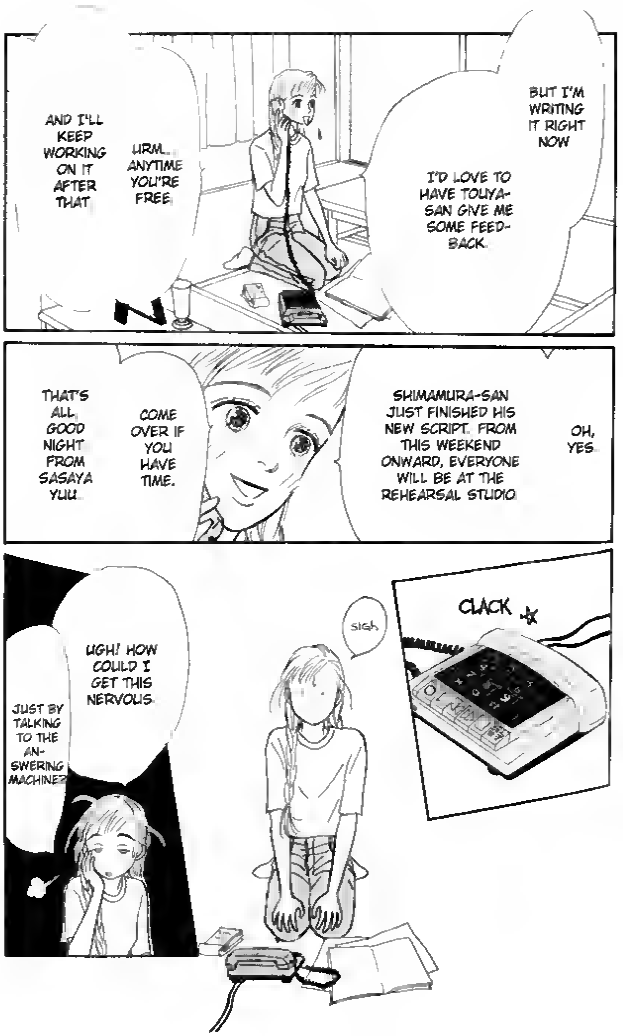
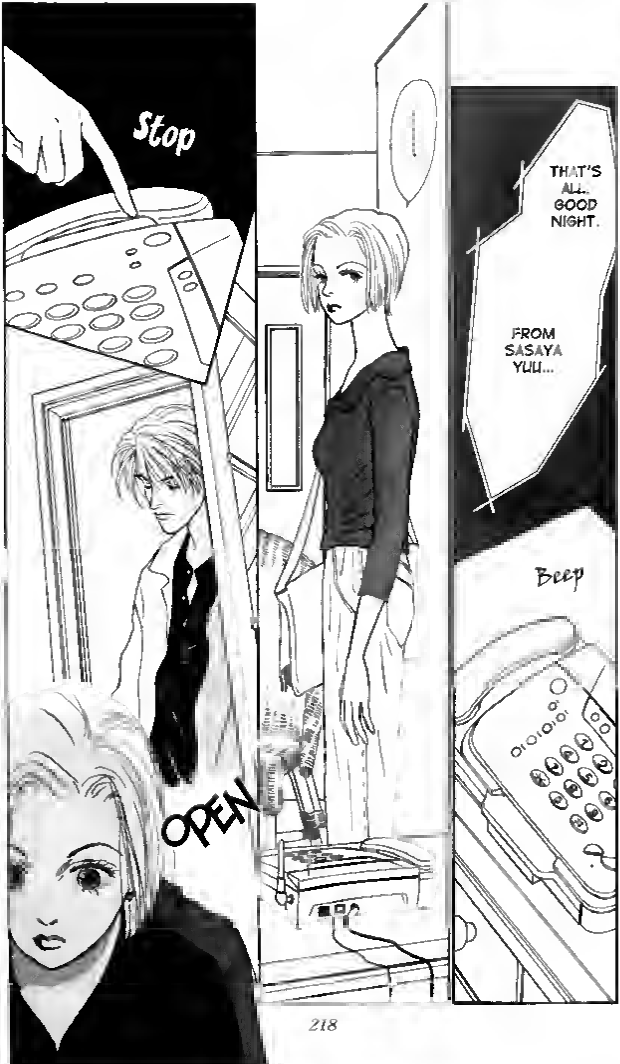
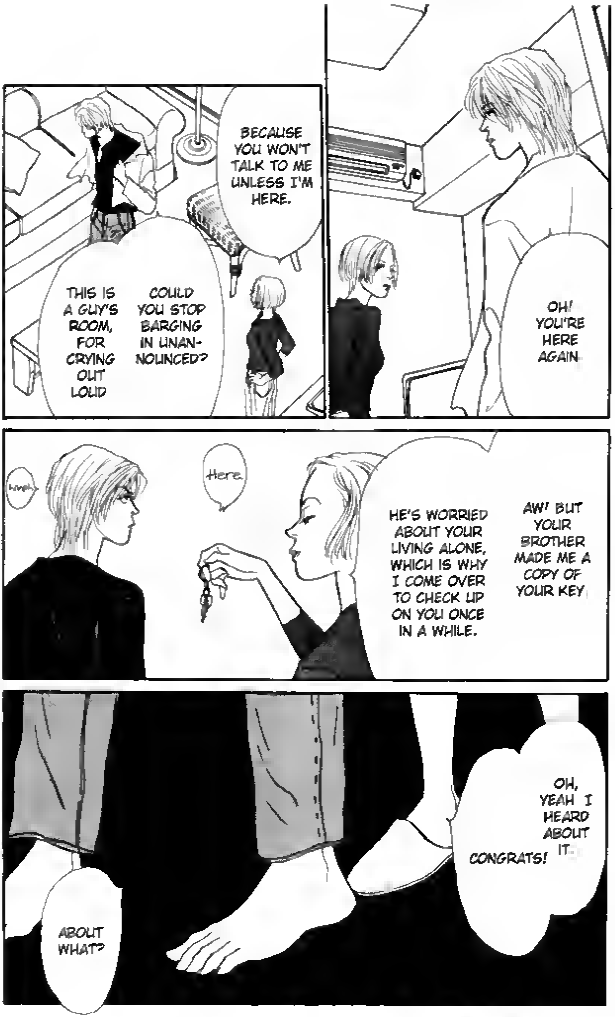

SPUTTER
OH, HE WON'T BE PERFECT, JUST LIKE ANY OTHER HUMAN BEING.
IF HE WERE A MACHINE
HE'D BE MORE BORING THAN AN IDLE SLOTH!
...
chuckle
It's dirty old man!
YES!?
YUU-CHAN!
YES!
AH
THE CUSTOMER IS WAITING FOR HIS FOOD!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO HOLD THAT TRAY FOR!?

I'M DAY-DREAMING ABOUT THE SCRIPT AGAIN...
THIS ISN'T GOOD
I'M SORRY I MADE YOU WAIT.
RUSH
ICHII TOUYA'S PERFORMANCE..
IN A DEEP VALLEY FULL OF ENDLESS MOUNTS OF TREES
A RUMBLE BRAE
THERE WAS A NARROW TRAIL THAT LEAD TO
WHERE A MYSTERIOUS OLD MAN LIVED

I FEEL LIKE THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I WANT TO WRITE, JUST BURSTING TO COME OUT.
GRA-NNY,
I FEEL THAT ANYTHING THAT PASSES THROUGH MY EYES CAN BE USED AS MATERIAL.
THIS...
AND THAT...
THEY'RE ALL WAITING FOR ME TO GIVE THEM LIFE.
I'M ALSO SURPRISED MYSELF...
IT MAY SOUND A LITTLE TOO RUSHED.


BUT I'M WRITING IT RIGHT NOW
I'D LOVE TO HAVE TOLIYA-SAN GIVE ME SOME FEED-BACK.
AND I'LL KEEP WORKING ON IT AFTER THAT.
UHM... ANYTIME YOU'RE FREE.
OH, YES.
SHIMAMURA-SAN JUST FINISHED HIS NEW SCRIPT. FROM THIS WEEKEND ONWARD, EVERYONE WILL BE AT THE REHEARSAL STUDIO.
COME OVER IF YOU HAVE TIME.
THAT'S ALL. GOOD NIGHT FROM SASAYA YUU.
CLACK
sigh
UGH! HOW COULD I GET THIS NERVOUS.
JUST BY TALKING TO THE AN-SWERING MACHINE?


Stop
OPEN
THAT'S ALL. GOOD NIGHT.
FROM SASAYA YUU...
Beep


BECAUSE YOU WON'T TALK TO ME UNLESS I'M HERE.
THIS IS A GUY'S ROOM, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD
COULD YOU STOP BARGING IN UNANNOUNCED?
OH! YOU'RE HERE AGAIN
Here.
HE'S WORRIED ABOUT YOUR LIVING ALONE, WHICH IS WHY I COME OVER TO CHECK UP ON YOU ONCE IN A WHILE.
AW! BUT YOUR BROTHER MADE ME A COPY OF YOUR KEY
OH, YEAH I HEARD ABOUT IT.
CONGRATS!
ABOUT WHAT?

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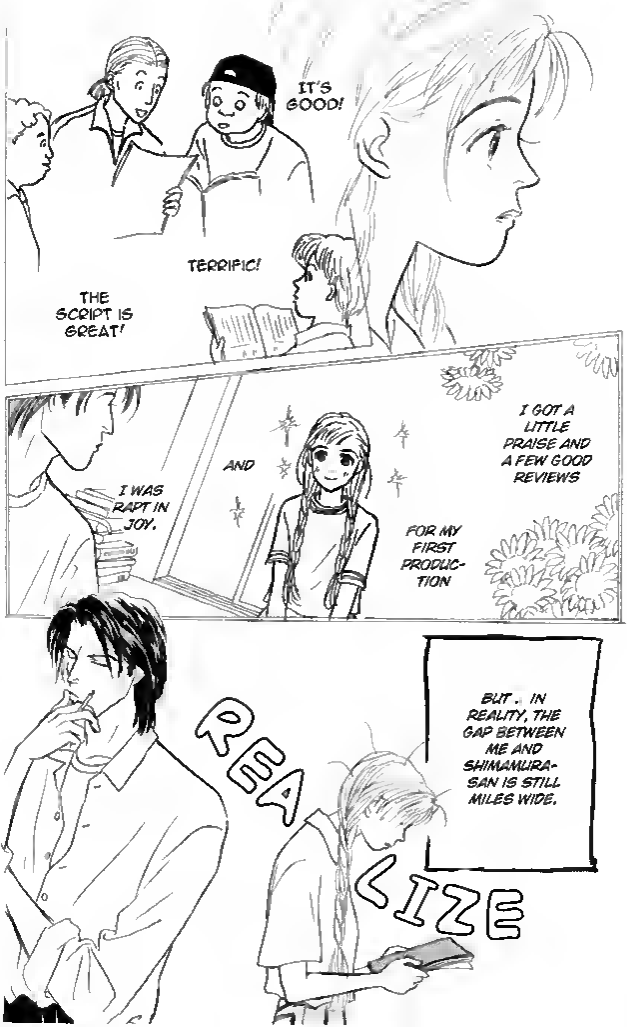
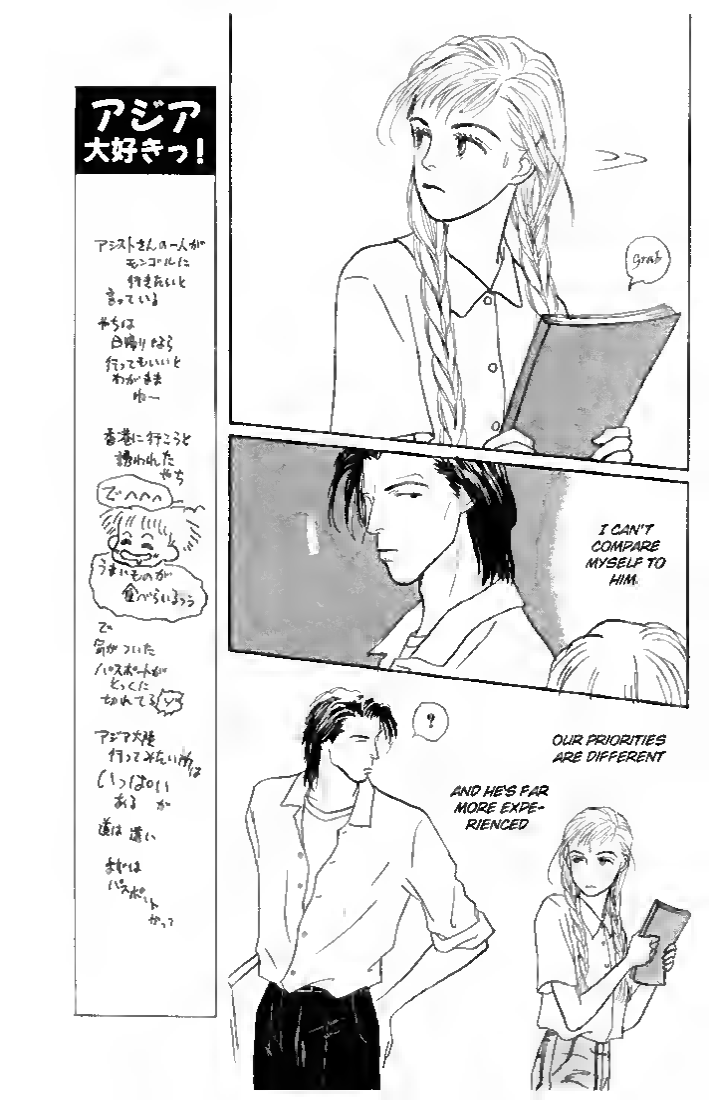
AS USUAL, NOTHING ESCAPES YOUR EARS.
ITS RATING WAS TOO HIGH TO JUST LEAVE IT AS IS.
AND AFTER THAT THEY'LL ALSO REMAKE IT INTO A MOVIE
THE SHOW YOU'RE IN IS CLOSING PRODUCTION NEXT WEEK BUT I HEARD THEY'RE MAKING A SECOND SEASON NEXT YEAR
ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING?
I'VE GOT LOTS OF CELEBRITY FRIENDS. IF THE MOVIE IS A HIT, YOU'LL BE QUITE FAMOUS
I'M A MODEL BUT AT LEAST I'M IN ON EVERYTHING.
.....
I'M GOING TO TAKE A SHOWER.
LOCK THE DOOR WHEN YOU LEAVE.

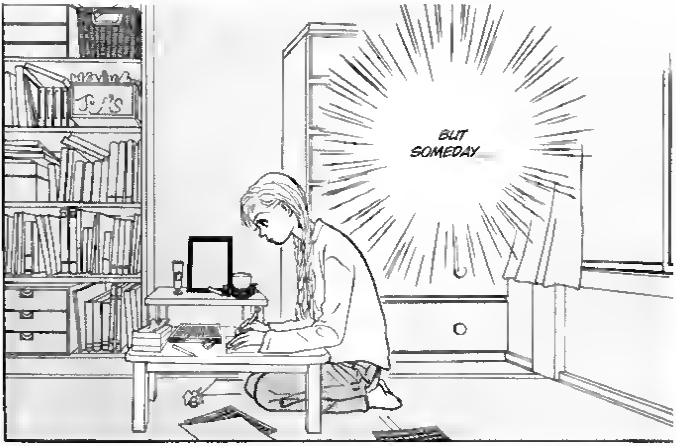
Mes-
sage
de-
leted
Click
TOUYA
HAS NO TIME FOR YOUR LOUSY PLAY!
BANG

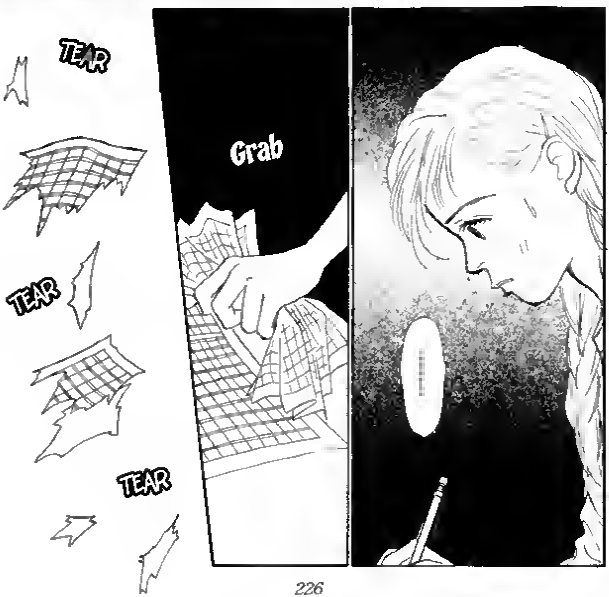
IT'S TERRIFIC, AS USUAL.
SHIMAMURA-SAN IS JUST PLAIN AMAZING.
WHOA, FOR SOMEONE THAT WAS SO SWAMPED, THIS IS A GREAT SCRIPT.

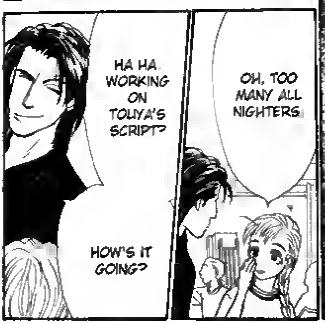
OK.
Yes sir
Move the mat a little to the right
SUDDENLY APPEARS
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING?
WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME. LET'S BEGIN THE REHEARSAL ALREADY!
...

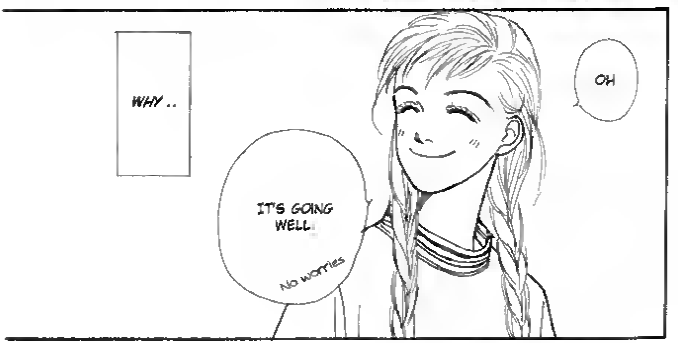

IT'S GOOD!
TERRIFIC!
THE SCRIPT IS GREAT!
I WAS RAPT IN JOY.
AND
I GOT A LITTLE PRAISE AND A FEW GOOD REVIEWS
FOR MY FIRST PRODUCTION
REALIZE
BUT... IN REALITY, THE GAP BETWEEN ME AND SHIMAMURA-SAN IS STILL MILES WIDE.


アジア大好きっ！
アシストさんの一人が
モンゴルに
行きたいと
言っている
私らは
自腹なら
行ってもいいと
わがまま
ゆー
香港に行こうと
誘われた
私ら
でへへへ
うまいものが
食べられるぞう
で
旬がついた
パスポートが
とくに
なめてる
アジア大陸
行って来たい
しっぽいい
あるか
道は遠い
まずは
パスポート
かっ？
Grab
I CAN'T COMPARE MYSELF TO HIM.
?
OUR PRIORITIES ARE DIFFERENT
AND HE'S FAR MORE EXPERIENCED


BUT
SOMEDAY


TEAR
TEAR
TEAR
Grab





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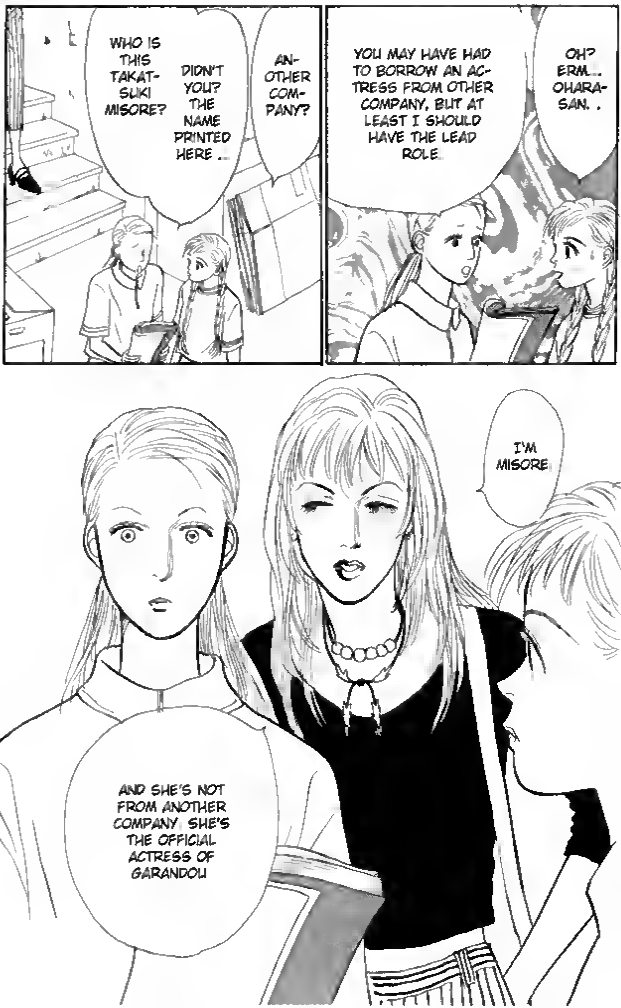
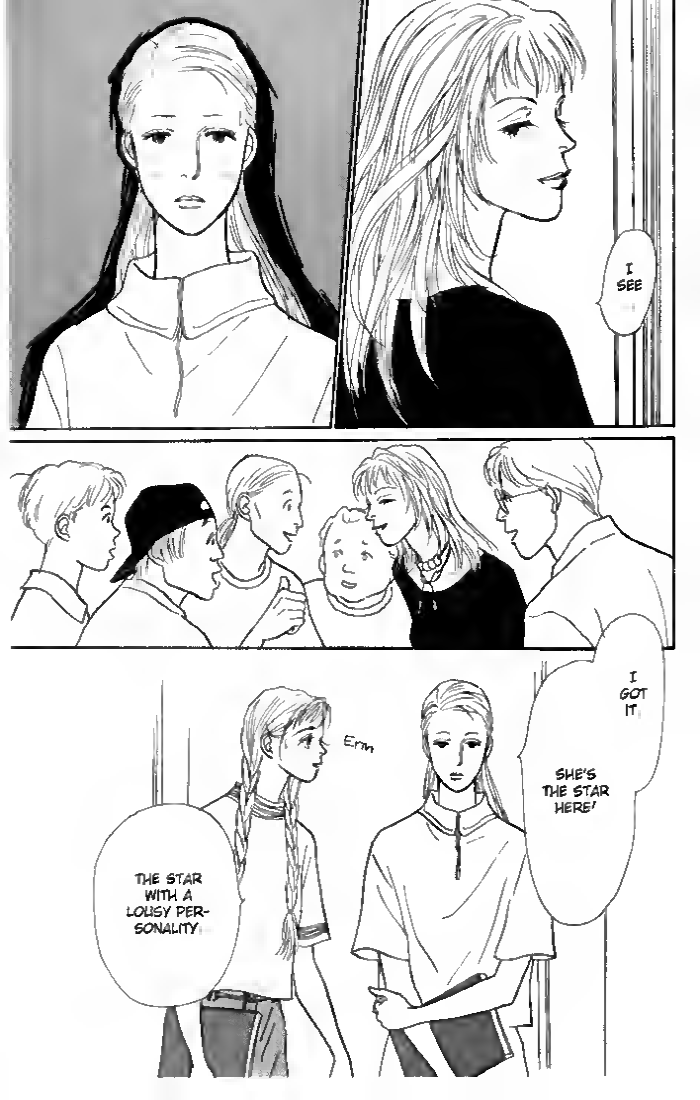
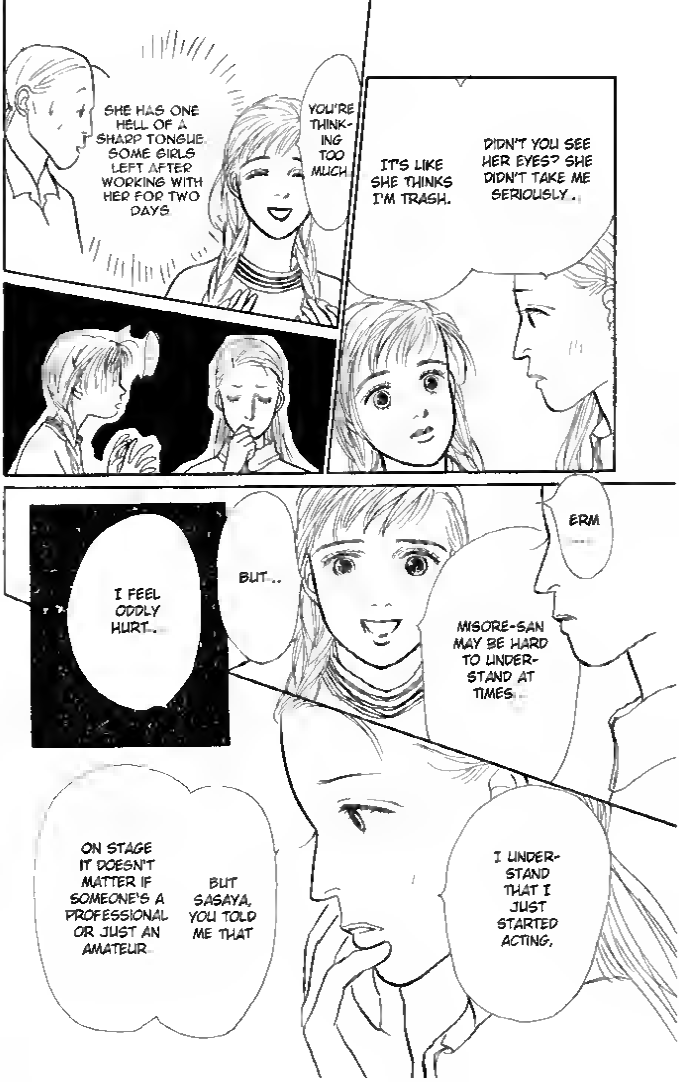
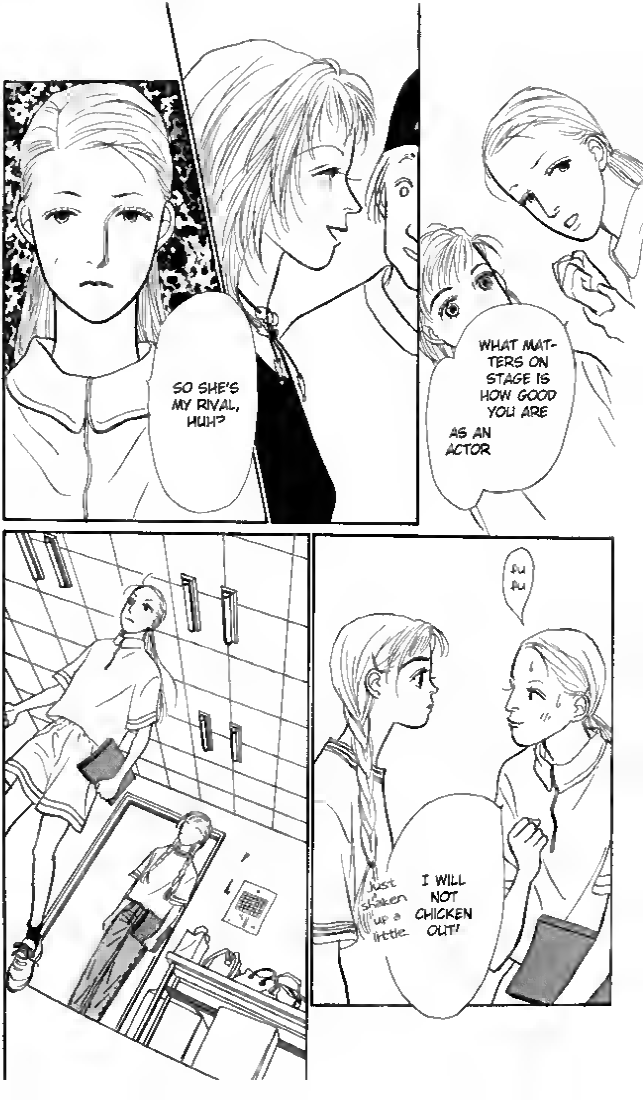
DID I HAVE TO PRETEND THAT EVERY-THING WAS ALL RIGHT?
"Good to hear that."
BUT. .
The Dinosaur's Bones
Shimmura Shouji
SASA-YA-SAN.
IT'LL BE THE SAME AS ACCEPTING DEFEAT
IF I SHOW ANY SIGNS OF WEAK-NESS,
AM I NOT THE ONLY ACTRESS IN THE COM-PANY?
MY PART IS MINOR EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE TWO FEMALE ROLES IN THE STORY
TAKE A LOOK AT THE CAST-ING FOR THIS PRO-DUCTION?
COULD YOU
EH?
HERE
COME WITH ME


WHO IS THIS TAKATSUKI MISORE?
DIDN'T YOU? THE NAME PRINTED HERE..
ANOTHER COMPANY?
YOU MAY HAVE HAD TO BORROW AN ACTRESS FROM OTHER COMPANY, BUT AT LEAST I SHOULD HAVE THE LEAD ROLE.
OH? ERM... OHARA-SAN..
I'M MISORE
AND SHE'S NOT FROM ANOTHER COMPANY SHE'S THE OFFICIAL ACTRESS OF GARANDOU

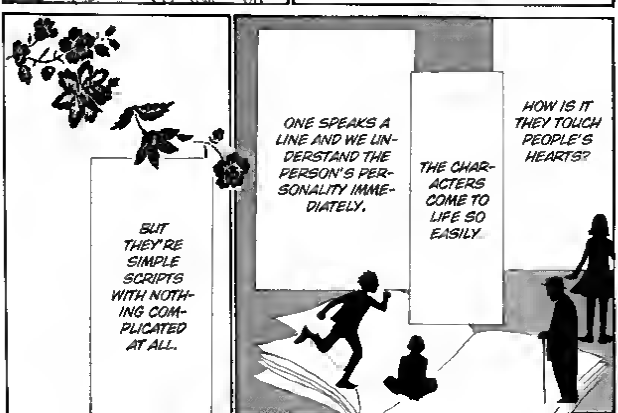
MISORE-SAN!
WHEN DID YOU COME BACK?
WHO'S THAT GIRL?
OH, THE NEW MEMBER OF OUR TROUPE, OHARA MIHO. SHE'S A SENIOR AT MY COLLEGE
SHE PLAYED THE LEAD ROLE IN MY FIRST PRODUCTION.
OH..

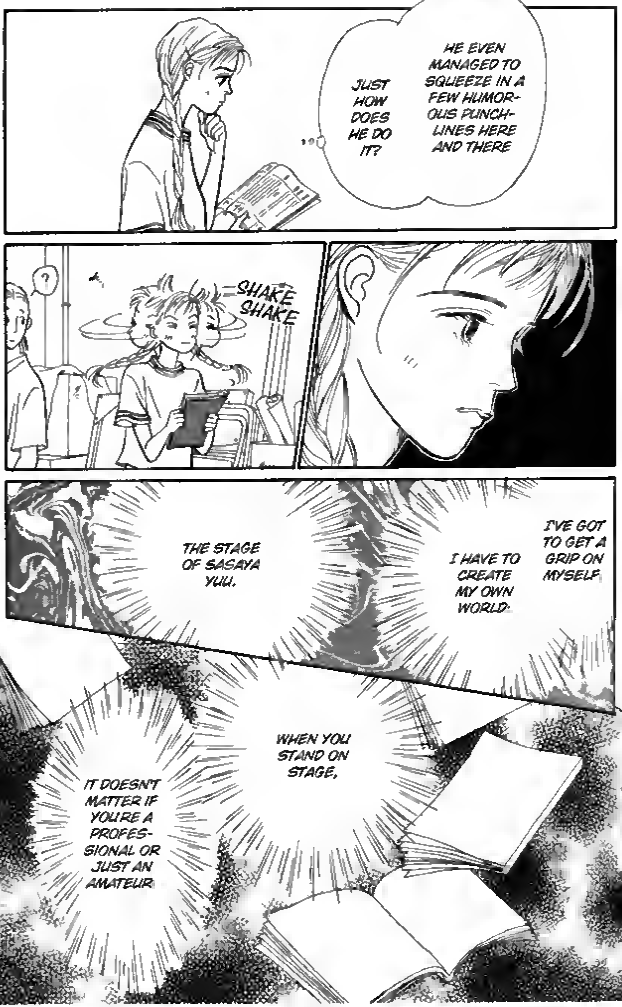

I SEE
I GOT IT
SHE'S THE STAR HERE!
Erm
THE STAR WITH A LOUSY PERSONALITY


SHE HAS ONE HELL OF A SHARP TONGUE. SOME GIRLS LEFT AFTER WORKING WITH HER FOR TWO DAYS
YOU'RE THINK-ING TOO MUCH
IT'S LIKE SHE THINKS I'M TRASH.
DIDN'T YOU SEE HER EYES? SHE DIDN'T TAKE ME SERIOUSLY.
I FEEL ODDLY HURT...
BUT..
ERM
MISORE-SAN MAY BE HARD TO UNDER-STAND AT TIMES.
I UNDER-STAND THAT I JUST STARTED ACTING.
BUT SASAYA, YOU TOLD ME THAT
ON STAGE IT DOESN'T MATTER IF SOMEONE'S A PROFESSIONAL OR JUST AN AMATEUR.


SO SHE'S MY RIVAL, HUH?
WHAT MATTERS ON STAGE IS HOW GOOD YOU ARE AS AN ACTOR
FU FU
I WILL NOT CHICKEN OUT!
Just shaken up a little

Hmm
THE SCRIPTS THIS PERSON WRITES ..
Che
RIVAL.


BUT THEY'RE SIMPLE SCRIPTS WITH NOTHING COMPLICATED AT ALL.
ONE SPEAKS A LINE AND WE UNDERSTAND THE PERSON'S PERSONALITY IMMEDIATELY.
THE CHARACTERS COME TO LIFE SO EASILY.
HOW IS IT THEY TOUCH PEOPLE'S HEARTS?


HE EVEN MANAGED TO SQUEEZE IN A FEW HUMOROUS PUNCHLINES HERE AND THERE
JUST HOW DOES HE DO IT?
?
SHAKE SHAKE
I'VE GOT TO GET A GRIP ON MYSELF.
I HAVE TO CREATE MY OWN WORLD.
THE STAGE OF SASAYA YUU.
WHEN YOU STAND ON STAGE,
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE A PROFESSIONAL OR JUST AN AMATEUR.

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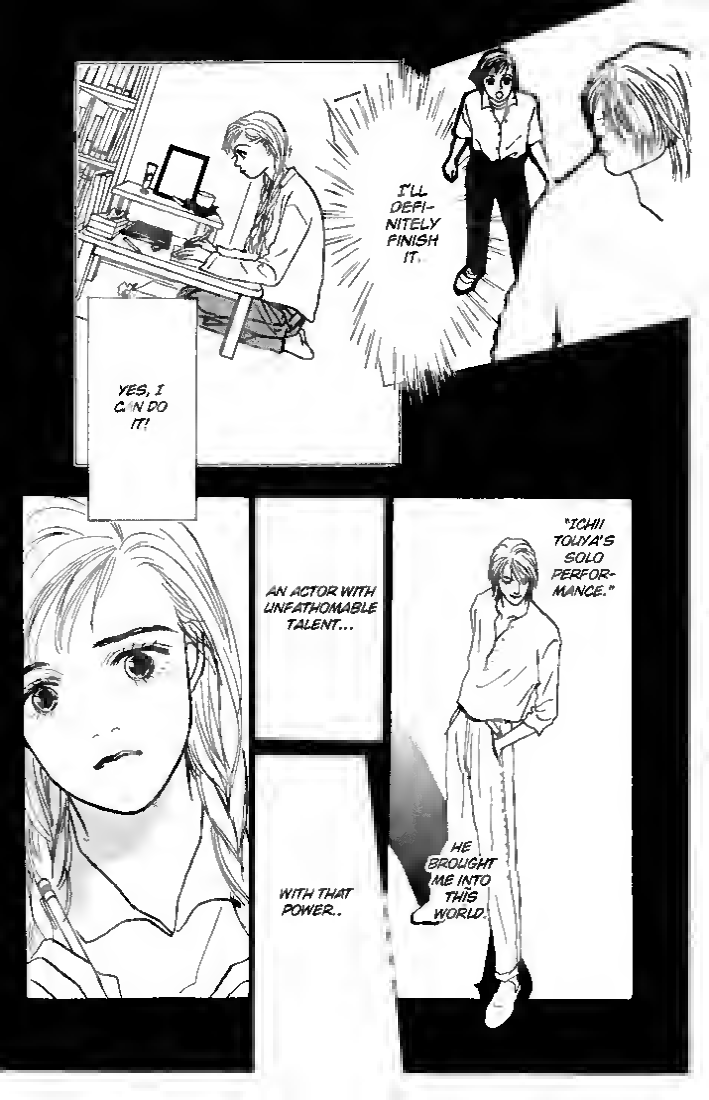
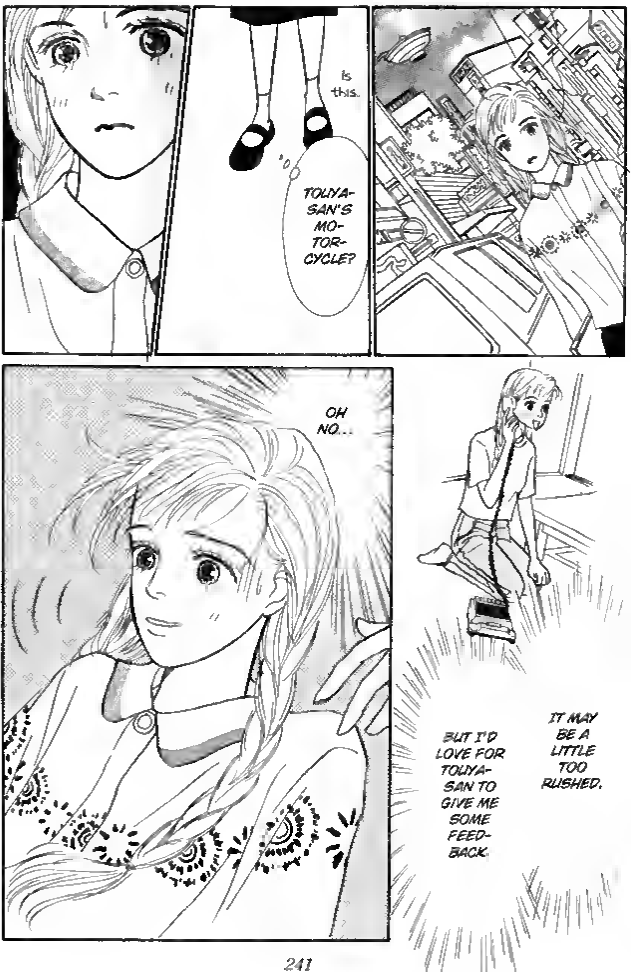
IT'S NOT
PROGRESSING AT ALL...
WHY!?


I'LL DEFINITELY FINISH IT.
YES, I C'N DO IT!
"ICHII TOLIYA'S SOLO PERFORMANCE."
AN ACTOR WITH UNFATHOMABLE TALENT...
HE BROUGHT ME INTO THIS WORLD.
WITH THAT POWER..

I CAN'T DO IT LIKE THIS!
NO GOOD!
CRUMPLE
I CAN'T IMAGINE A SINGLE THING
WHAT A USELESS WAY TO KILL TIME
SUCH DULL
I HAVE NOTHING
MEANINGLESS DIALOGUE!
FOR MY STAGE...
IF THIS CONTINUES ..

.....
EVEN MY ONLY CHARACTER WILL BECOME USE-LESS
GRANNY!
WHAT SHOULD I DO!?


Is this...
TOUYA-SAN'S MO-TOR-CYCLE?
OH NO...
IT MAY BE A LITTLE TOO RUSHED.
BUT I'D LOVE FOR TOUYA-SAN TO GIVE ME SOME FEED-BACK.

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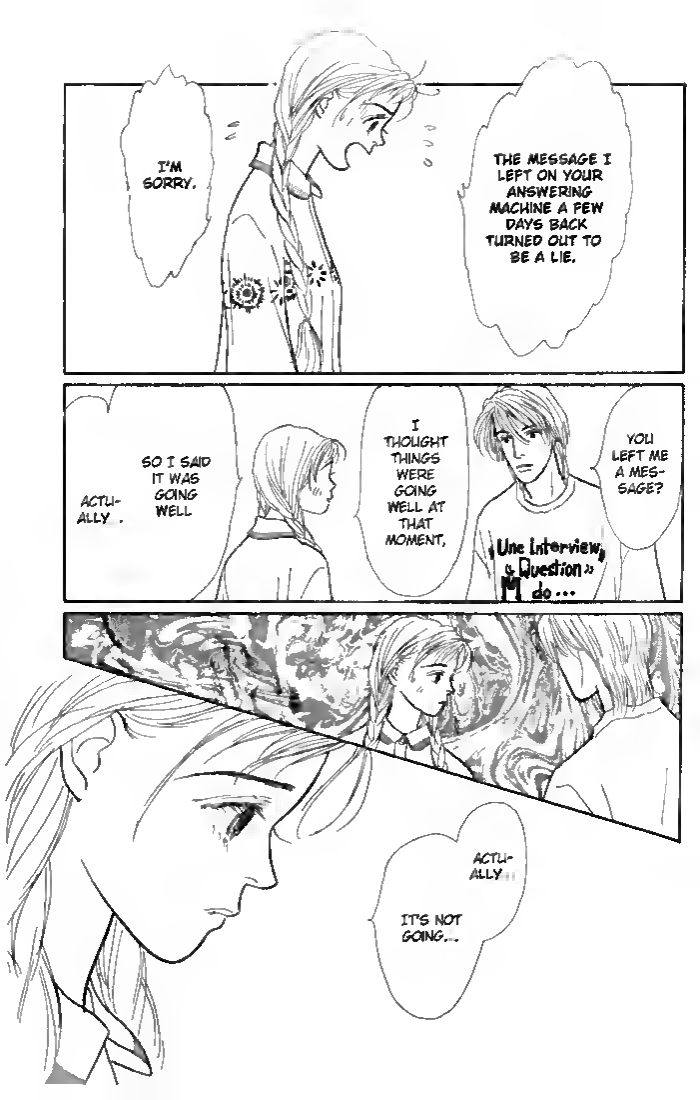

I'M SORRY.
THE MESSAGE I LEFT ON YOUR ANSWERING MACHINE A FEW DAYS BACK TURNED OUT TO BE A LIE.
YOU LEFT ME A MESSAGE?
Une Interview, Question » do...
I THOUGHT THINGS WERE GOING WELL AT THAT MOMENT,
SO I SAID IT WAS GOING WELL
ACTUALLY.
ACTUALLY...
IT'S NOT GOING...

One Interview, One Question I do...
ANY-WHERE
I'M SORRY
I KNOW I PROMISED YOU
I...

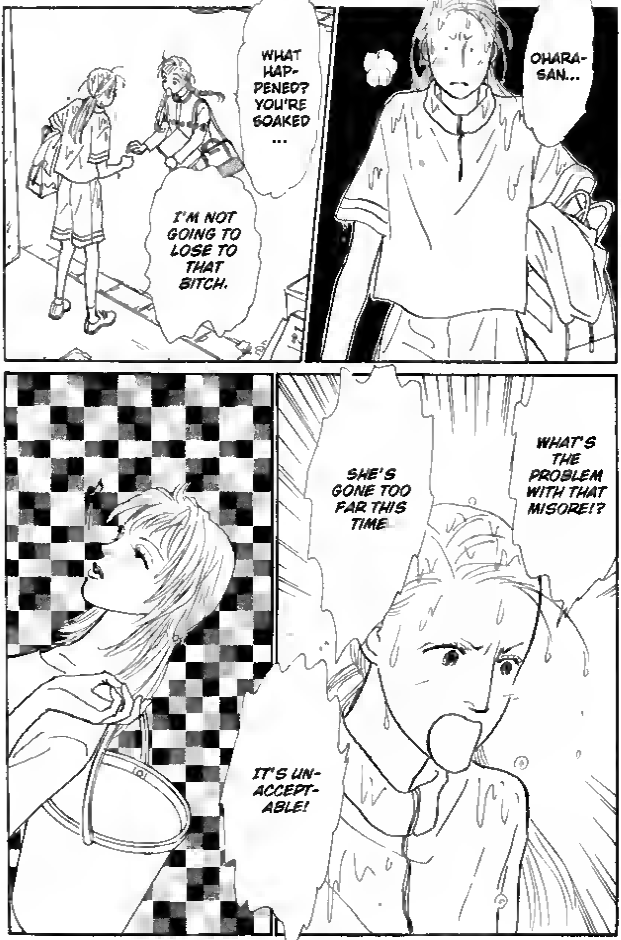
I'M NOT CONFI-DENT ENOUGH YET
TO WRITE A SCRIPT THAT CAN REDEFINE
A NAME SUCH AS "ICHII TOUYA"
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
IT'S JUST LIKE YOU
TO SAY THAT YOU'RE NOT CONFI-DENT ENOUGH YET

AS LONG AS YOU SAY "NOT CONFIDENT ENOUGH YET", MEANING YOU KNOW THAT SOMEDAY YOU WILL BE
THAT SOUNDS LIKE CONFIDENCE TO ME.
IT'S NOT A COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME
IT MAY TAKE A LONG TIME, BUT KEEP TREADING SLOWLY
UNTIL YOU REACH THE STAGE WHEN YOU CAN ACCEPT YOURSELF
LATELY...

I KEEP FEELING THAT I'M NOT THERE YET EITHER
THERE?
THERE ARE A LOT OF GREAT ACTORS OUTSIDE OF THEATER.
THE LONGER I'M IN THIS INDUSTRY, THE MORE I REALIZE HOW MANY ACTORS ARE BETTER THAN ME
SOMETIMES I FEEL DETERMINED NOT TO LOSE TO THOSE PEOPLE
I'M NOT SURE, BUT RIGHT NOW I FEEL I'M ENJOYING MYSELF.

JUST WATCH ME. SOMEDAY!
GRANNY
WHY? WHY AM I FEELING SO RUSHED AND DETERMINED?
YES.
I HAVE PLENTY OF TIME.

AS LONG AS I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN MYSELF,
AS LONG AS I DO IT FROM MY HEART
I'LL BE ABLE TO WRITE IT HAPPILY
WITHOUT FEELING FORCED
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP


WHAT HAP-PENED? YOU'RE SOAKED ...
I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE TO THAT BITCH.
OHARA-SAN...
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH THAT MISORE!?
SHE'S GONE TOO FAR THIS TIME
IT'S UN-ACCEPT-ABLE!

End chapter 13

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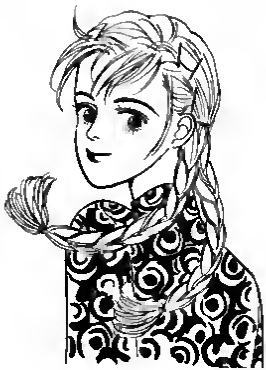
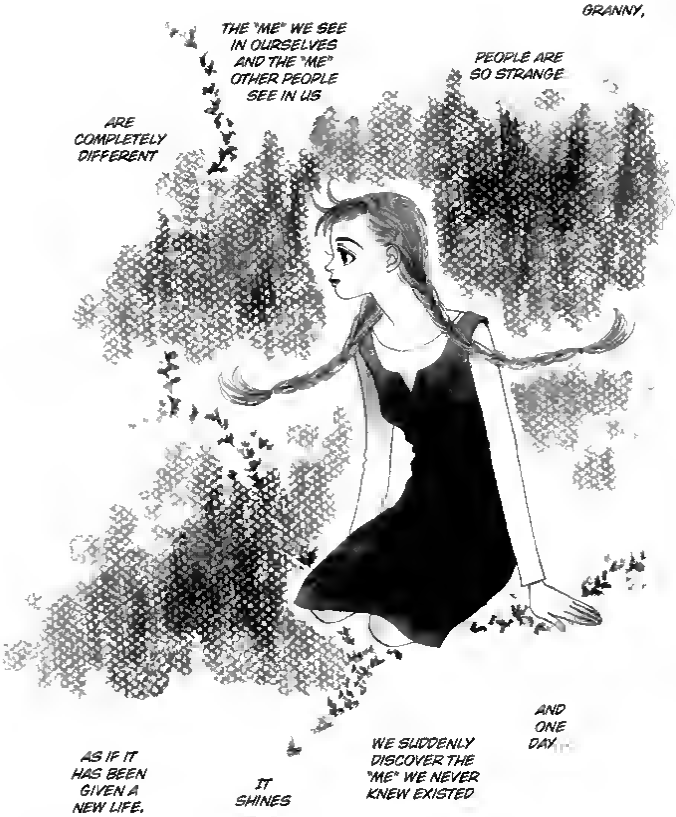
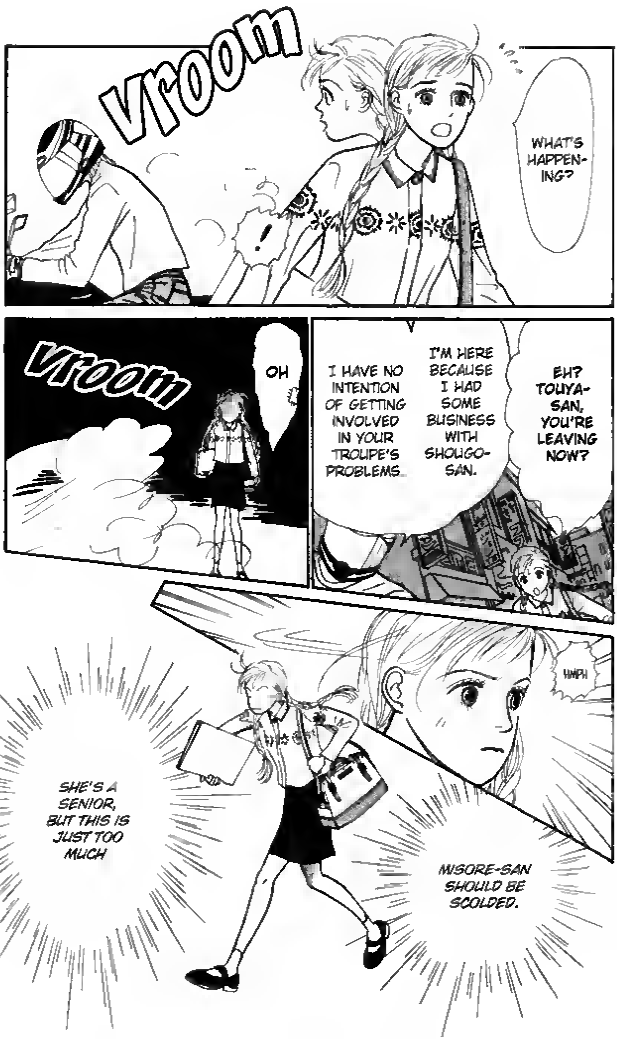



GRANNY,
PEOPLE ARE SO STRANGE
THE "ME" WE SEE IN OURSELVES AND THE "ME" OTHER PEOPLE SEE IN US
ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT
AND ONE DAY...
WE SUDDENLY DISCOVER THE "ME" WE NEVER KNEW EXISTED
IT SHINES
AS IF IT HAS BEEN GIVEN A NEW LIFE.

明日の王様

UNIT 14

I DON'T LIKE TO DEAL WITH PEOPLE.
I'VE FOUND IT.
IT'S LIKE I WAS REBORN.
OHARA-SAN!


Vroom
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
EH? TOUYA-SAN, YOU'RE LEAVING NOW?
I'M HERE BECAUSE I HAD SOME BUSINESS WITH SHOUGO-SAN.
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF GETTING INVOLVED IN YOUR TROUPE'S PROBLEMS.
OH
Vroom
HMPH
SHE'S A SENIOR, BUT THIS IS JUST TOO MUCH
MISORE-SAN SHOULD BE SCOLDED.

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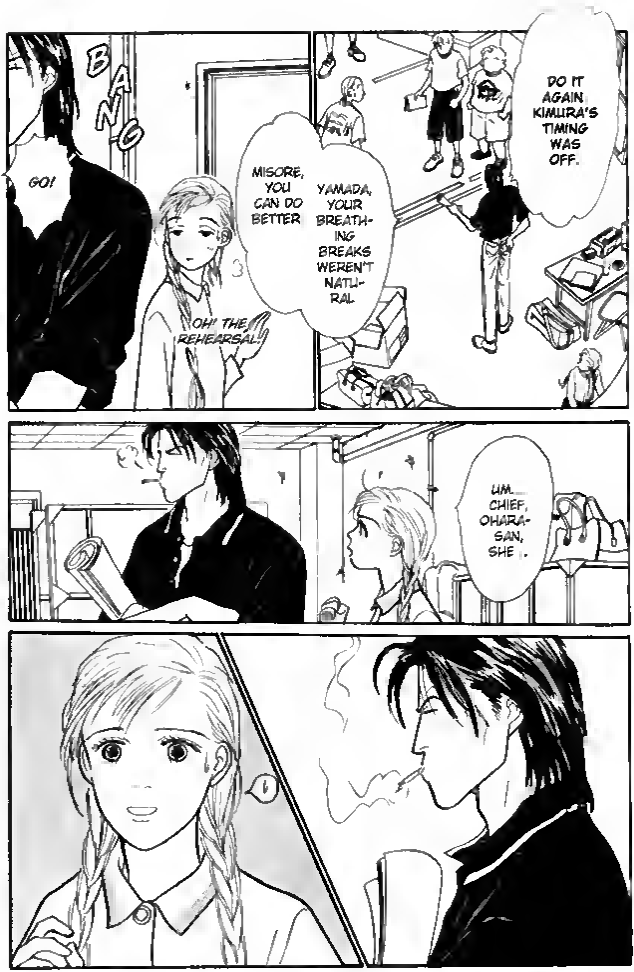
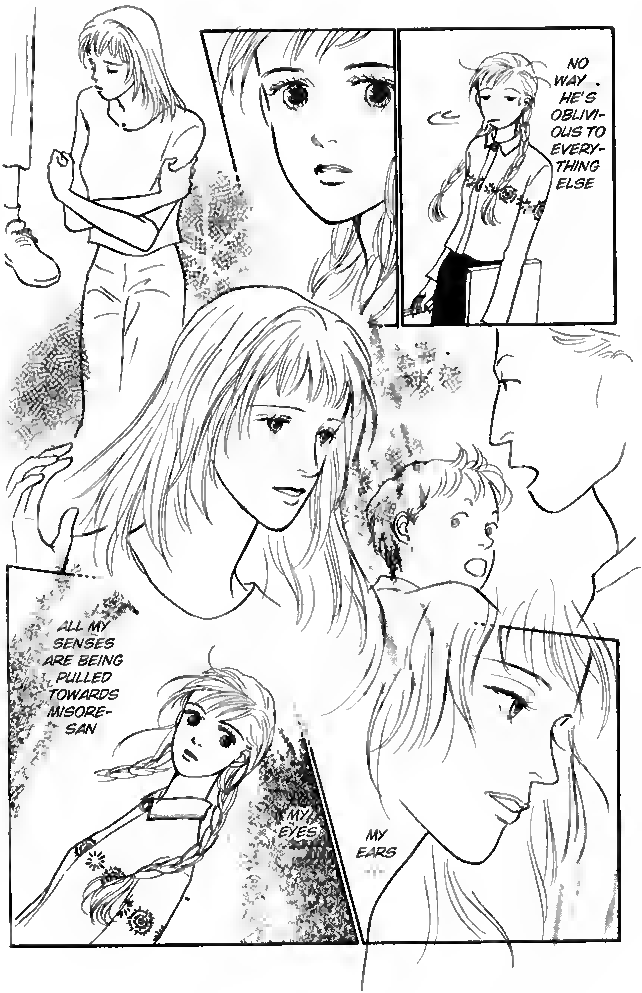
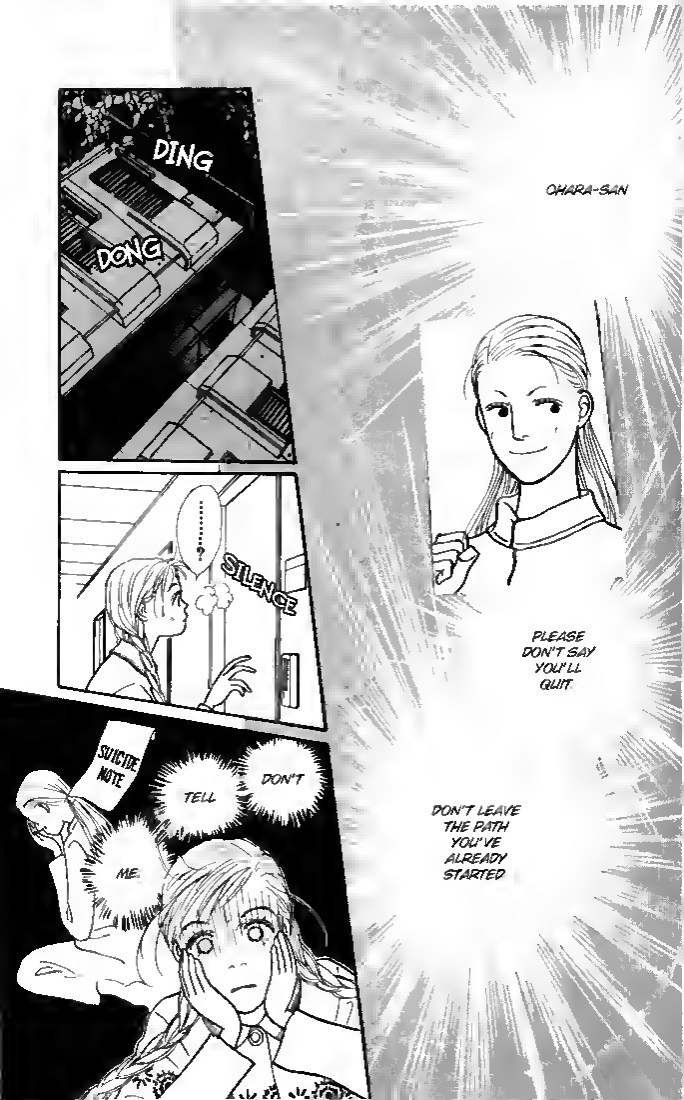

BANG
GO!
OH! THE REHEARSAL!
MISORE, YOU CAN DO BETTER
YAMADA, YOUR BREATHING BREAKS WEREN'T NATURAL
DO IT AGAIN. KIMURA'S TIMING WAS OFF.
UM... CHIEF, OHARA-SAN, SHE'

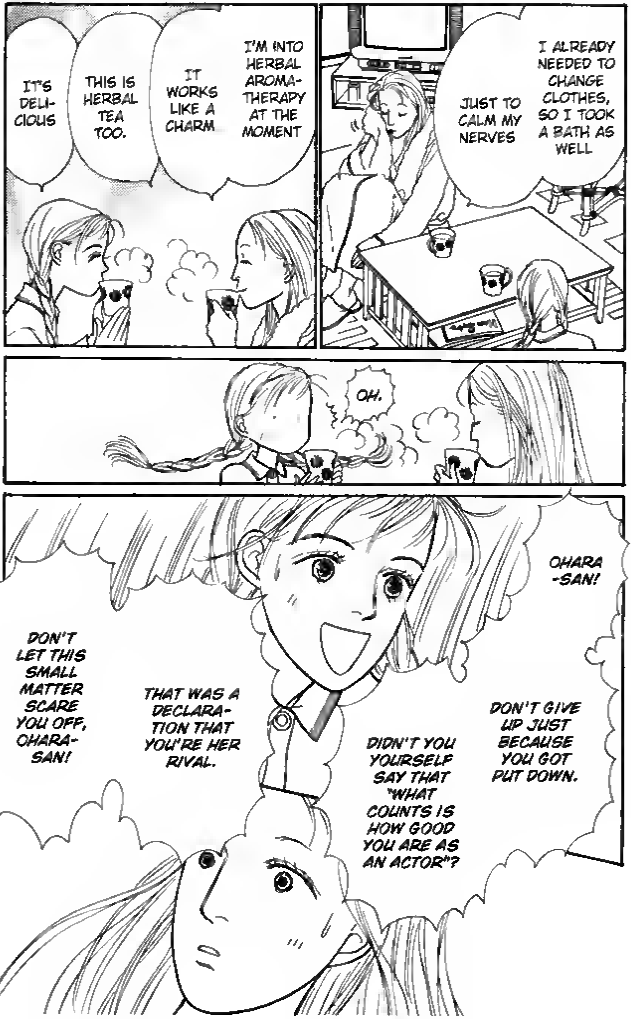

NO WAY. HE'S OBLIVIOUS TO EVERYTHING ELSE
ALL MY SENSES ARE BEING PULLED TOWARDS MISORE-SAN
MY EYES
MY EARS

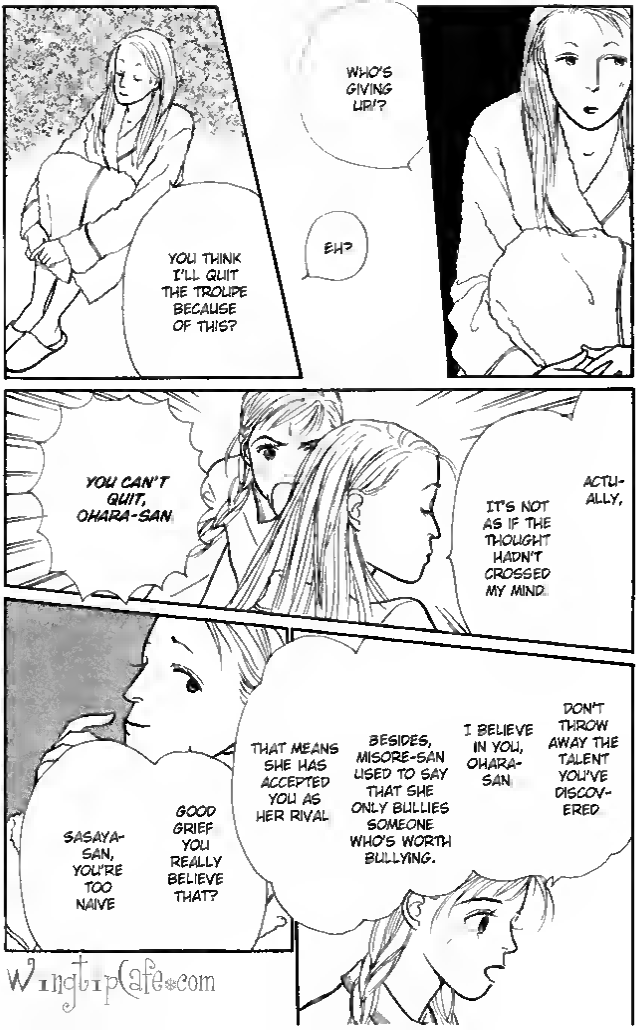
AH... SINCE NEW YORK, THIS PERSON HAS GROWN EVEN MORE.
CAPTIVATED
Ah
I NEED TO TAKE CARE OF OHARA-SAN'S MATTER
THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR ADMIR-ING.

OHARA -SAN'S AD-DRESS
I GUESS I'D BETTER TALK TO HER MYSELF.
LEAVE HER BE.
WHY DO I HAVE TO APOLO-GIZE?
YOU CAN'T ALLOW SOMETHING THIS SMALL TO SHAKE YOUR CONFI-DENCE
THE MORE SERIOUS YOU WERE BEFORE, THE MORE YOU HAVE TO LOSE NOW.


DING
DONG
OHARA-SAN
SILENCE
PLEASE DON'T SAY YOU'LL QUIT
SUICIDE NOTE
TELL
DON'T
ME
DON'T LEAVE THE PATH YOU'VE ALREADY STARTED

BANG
OHARA-SAN!
OHARA-SAN.
BANG
BANG
BANG
OHARA-SAN!!
BANG
-SAN.
Silly me
S-SORRY YOU DIDN'T ANSWER THE DOOR, SO I..
I ALMOST CALLED THE POLICE
YOU GAVE ME A FRIGHT. SUDDENLY SOMEONE WAS SHOUTING AND BANGING ON MY DOOR


IT'S DELICIOUS
THIS IS HERBAL TEA TOO.
IT WORKS LIKE A CHARM
I'M INTO HERBAL AROMA-THERAPY AT THE MOMENT
JUST TO CALM MY NERVES
I ALREADY NEEDED TO CHANGE CLOTHES, SO I TOOK A BATH AS WELL
OH.
OHARA-SAN!
DON'T LET THIS SMALL MATTER SCARE YOU OFF, OHARA-SAN!
THAT WAS A DECLARATION THAT YOU'RE HER RIVAL.
DIDN'T YOU YOURSELF SAY THAT "WHAT COUNTS IS HOW GOOD YOU ARE AS AN ACTOR"?
DON'T GIVE UP JUST BECAUSE YOU GOT PUT DOWN.


YOU THINK I'LL QUIT THE TROUPE BECAUSE OF THIS?
EH?
WHO'S GIVING UP!?
ACTUALLY,
IT'S NOT AS IF THE THOUGHT HADN'T CROSSED MY MIND.
YOU CAN'T QUIT, OHARA-SAN.
DON'T THROW AWAY THE TALENT YOU'VE DISCOVERED
I BELIEVE IN YOU, OHARA-SAN
BESIDES, MISORE-SAN USED TO SAY THAT SHE ONLY BULLIES SOMEONE WHO'S WORTH BULLYING.
THAT MEANS SHE HAS ACCEPTED YOU AS HER RIVAL
GOOD GRIEF YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT?
SASAYA-SAN, YOU'RE TOO NAIVE

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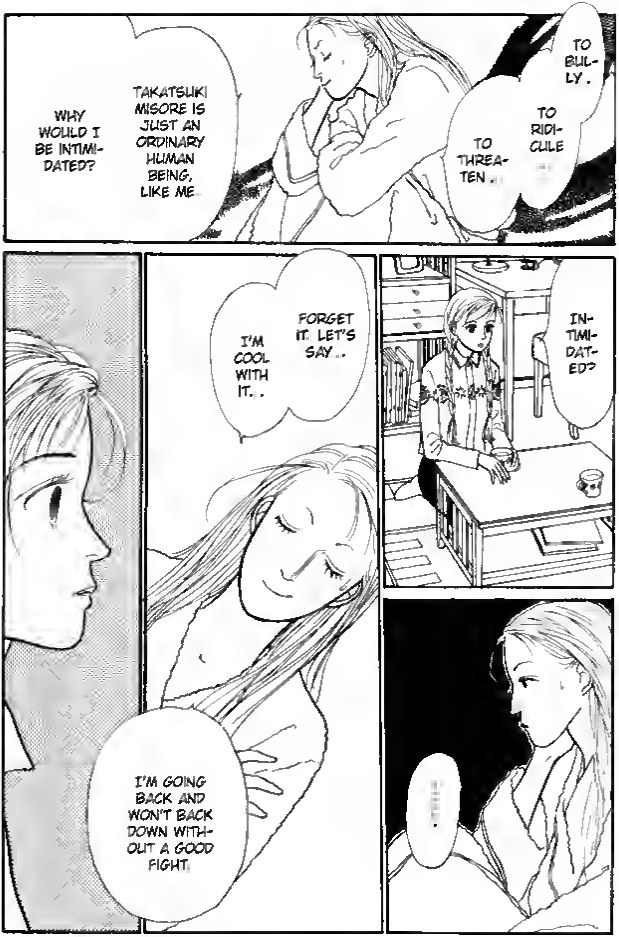

TO BULLY.
TO RIDICULE
TO THREATEN.
TAKATSUKI MISORE IS JUST AN ORDINARY HUMAN BEING, LIKE ME.
WHY WOULD I BE INTIMIDATED?
INTIMIDATED?
FORGET IT. LET'S SAY..
I'M COOL WITH IT..
I'M GOING BACK AND WON'T BACK DOWN WITHOUT A GOOD FIGHT.

I GUESS STAGEPLAYS MUST HAVE WOKEN UP SOMETHING INSIDE HER!
IT'S INCREDIBLE, GRANNY.
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S THE SAME OHARA-SAN WHO WANTED TO QUIT A FEW MONTHS AGO...
IS THAT HOW A STAR IS BORN!?
I'VE TOLD YOU MANY TIMES.
I DIDN'T PROMISE

THEN GO DO YOUR THING.
I'M NOT HERE TO NAG! I WAS INVITED TO A VARIETY SHOW HERE TODAY! I'M WORKING TOO!!
STOP YAPPING! AND YOU CAME ALL THE WAY HERE JUST TO NAG ME? I'M SWAMPED TODAY.
THEN WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO? I TOLD THE STAFF THAT TOUYA WILL BE THERE I'LL LOSE FACE.
THAT TROUPE ...
TO HANG OUT WITH THAT TROUPE.
IT'S NO SURPRISE OUR RELATIONSHIP HAS GONE DOWNHILL. THOUGH BUSY AS YOU ARE YOU STILL HAVE THE TIME
A THREE HOUR TV SHOW, AND A MOVIE FOR THE BIG SCREEN FOLLOWED THE SPRING SEASON TV SHOW.

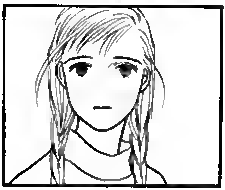
'GA-RAN-DOU'.
I HAVEN'T GONE TO SEE THEM. WHO HAS THE TIME TO DO THINGS LIKE THAT?
LIAR! YOU WERE JUST THERE!
THAT'S BECAUSE I HAD SOME BUSI-NESS WITH SHOU-GO-SAN.
AND HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS THERE?
I KNEW IT BE-CAUSE
THAT GIRL YUU LEFT A MESSAGE ON YOUR ANSWERING MACHINE AGAIN.
.....
TOUYA, THAT GIRL, SASAYA YUU, WHAT IS HER RELATION-SHIP TO YOU?
CHOKE
THE MAGAZINES CAN GOSSIP ABOUT YOU AND ANY OTHER AC-TRESS FOR ALL I CARE.
BUT, . . I WON'T STAND FOR YOU BEING ON THE NEWS WITH THAT NO-NAME GIRL!

SHE'S JUST AN ACQUAINTANCE FROM THE STAGE-PLAY CIRCLE,
AND AN 'ICHII TOUYA FAN', THAT'S ALL.
AND ..
AND WHAT?
SOMEONE WHO SAID SHE WOULD WRITE ME A MONODRAMA
AND YOU SERIOUSLY THINK SHE'LL BE ABLE TO PULL IT OFF.
TOUYA, WE'RE BEGINNING THE READ-THROUGH SOON. LET'S GO TO THE STUDIO.

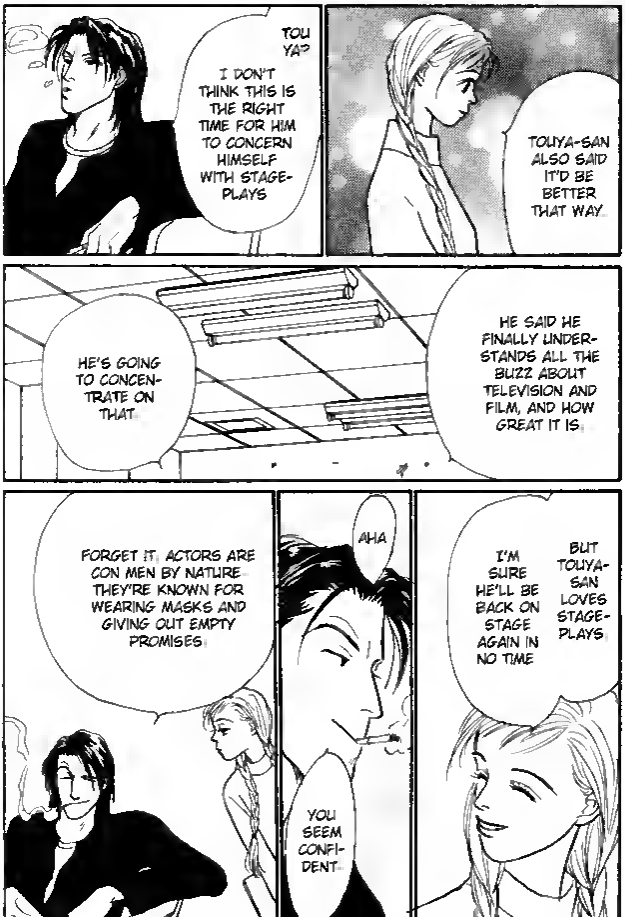
KINA,
YOU'D BETTER GIVE UP YOUR CHILDISH HOPE. NO MATTER HOW YOU TAG ALONG WITH ME, I CAN'T HELP YOU WITH MY BROTHER
TOU-YA!
TOUYA YOU IDIOT

HOW COULD YOU THINK EVERYTHING IS STILL AS IT WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL?

WHAT? YOU GAVE UP?



I'M NOT GIVING UP
I JUST DECIDED NOT TO PUSH MYSELF TO WRITE IT
I'LL WAIT UNTIL IT FLOWS OUT BY ITSELF, WITHOUT BEING FORCED


TOUYA?
I DON'T THINK THIS IS THE RIGHT TIME FOR HIM TO CONCERN HIMSELF WITH STAGE-PLAYS
TOUYA-SAN ALSO SAID IT'D BE BETTER THAT WAY.
HE'S GOING TO CONCENTRATE ON THAT.
HE SAID HE FINALLY UNDERSTANDS ALL THE BUZZ ABOUT TELEVISION AND FILM, AND HOW GREAT IT IS.
FORGET IT. ACTORS ARE CON MEN BY NATURE. THEY'RE KNOWN FOR WEARING MASKS AND GIVING OUT EMPTY PROMISES.
AHA
YOU SEEM CONFIDENT.
I'M SURE HE'LL BE BACK ON STAGE AGAIN IN NO TIME
BUT TOUYA-SAN LOVES STAGE-PLAYS.

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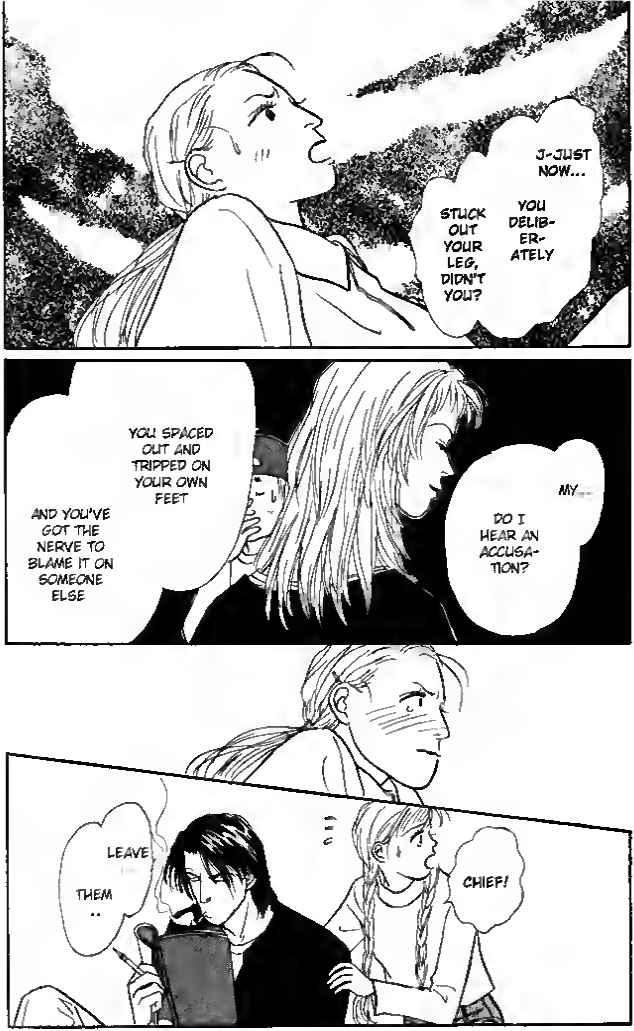
J-JUST NOW...
YOU DELIBERATELY STUCK OUT YOUR LEG, DIDN'T YOU?
MY...
DO I HEAR AN ACCUSATION?
YOU SPACED OUT AND TRIPPED ON YOUR OWN FEET
AND YOU'VE GOT THE NERVE TO BLAME IT ON SOMEONE ELSE
CHIEF!
LEAVE THEM...

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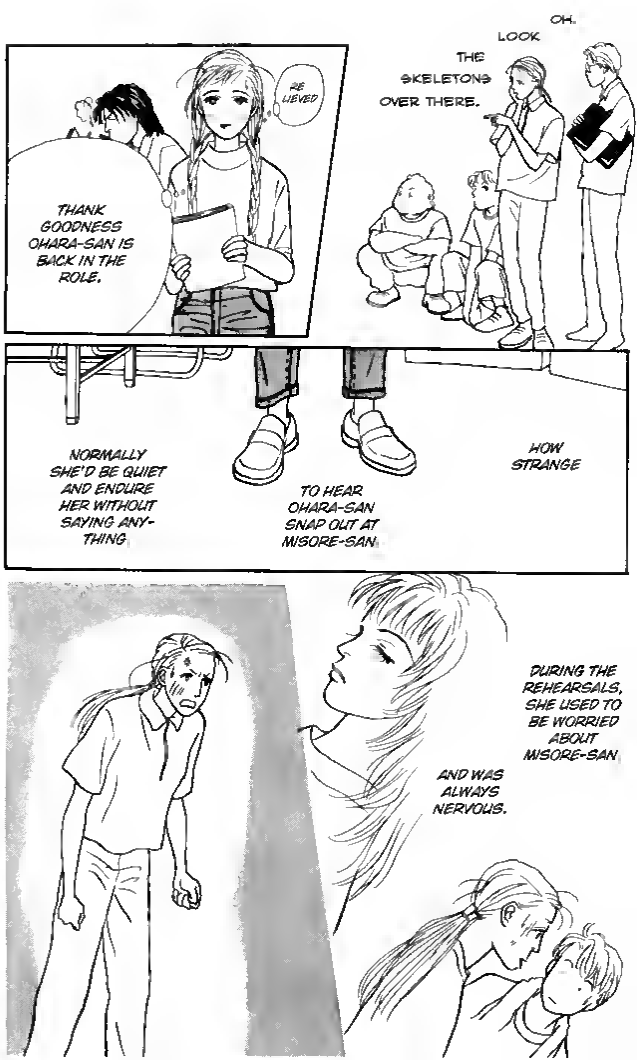
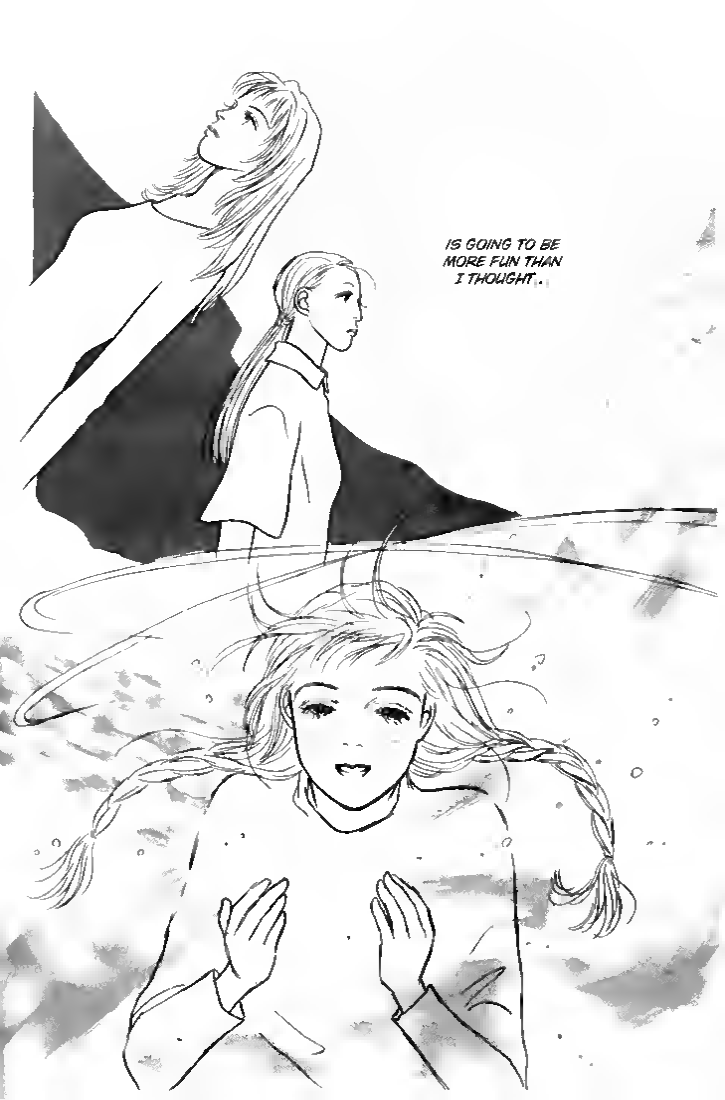
THIS IS HORRIBLE. WOULD YOU THINK OF OHARA-SAN FOR A MOMENT?
WHY DOES SHE HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO TAKE IT EVERY TIME?
Chie!
!
LOOK
SPACED OUT?
TRIPPED ON MY OWN FEET?
EXCUSE ME, I WAS STAND-ING FIRMLY.
STOP PUSHING THE FAULT ON ME TO COVER UP YOUR VICIOUS PRANK!
VICIOUS WHAT?
YOUR PRANKS, WHAT ELSE?!

Oh, I
FU FU.. YOU'RE IN OVER YOUR HEAD.
MI-SO-RE-SAN
IT'S YOUR FAULT WE HAVE TO STOP. WOULD YOU HAVE A LOOK AROUND?
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A RE-HEARSAL
WHY DO I HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO APOLO-GIZE?
DARN
Grrr
wave
I'M SO SORRY... ONE MORE TIME, PLEASE
Sniff
Sniff


THANK GOODNESS OHARA-SAN IS BACK IN THE ROLE.
HE LIEVED
OH. LOOK THE SKELETONS OVER THERE.
NORMALLY SHE'D BE QUIET AND ENDURE HER WITHOUT SAYING ANY-THING
TO HEAR OHARA-SAN SNAP OUT AT MISORE-SAN
HOW STRANGE
DURING THE REHEARSALS, SHE USED TO BE WORRIED ABOUT MISORE-SAN
AND WAS ALWAYS NERVOUS.

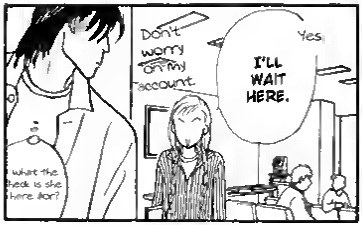
That is...
That is...
A CLACKING SOUND
IT'S MAKING
I DIDN'T JUST IMAGINE IT.
TODAY OHARA-SAN...
AND HER VOICE IS FULLER.
GOT INTO HER ROLE MUCH BETTER THAN SHE DID YESTER-DAY.
AND AL-THOUGH SHE'S NOT YET AT MISORE-SAN'S LEVEL,
HER PROG-RESS
IS AMAZ-ING...

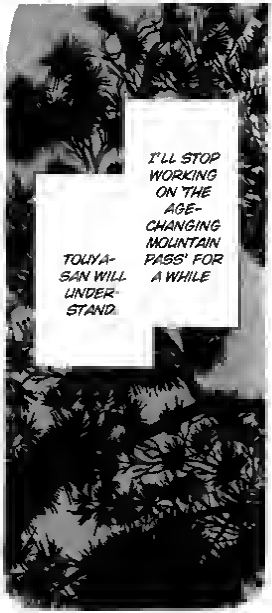
AH...
THESE TWO
That's enough for today
THIS FIGHT...

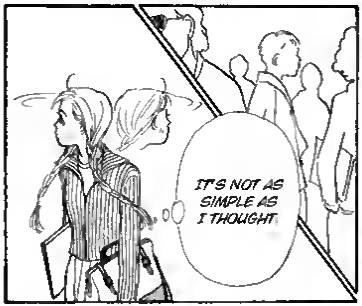

IS GOING TO BE
MORE FUN THAN
I THOUGHT..

OH... THE SCRIPT YOU WROTE? THE GARANDOU PLAY THAT WAS MADE INTO A TV DRAMA.
YEAH. THEY'RE HAVING A FULL CAST MEETING TODAY. I NEED TO SHOW MY FACE FOR A WHILE
How boring
JTV CHANNEL? RIGHT NOW?
You don't have to go there alone!
CHIEF
MAY I COME WITH YOU?
MAYBE I'LL RUN INTO HIM
JTV STATION IS WHERE TOUYA-SAN IS SHOOTING HIS SPECIAL TV SHOW
J T V

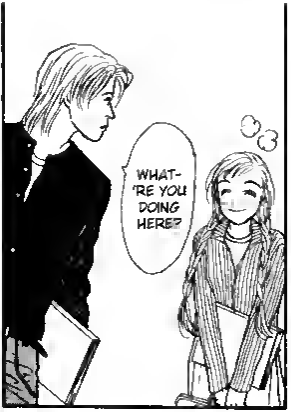
HE'S PROBABLY BEEN BUSIER
HE DOESN'T STOP BY THE REHEARSAL STUDIO AS OFTEN AS BEFORE
SO I HAVEN'T HAD MUCH CHANCE TO TALK TO HIM.
TALK...
YES, GRANNY.
I WANT TO ASK HIM ABOUT THE PLAY I WROTE
WITH MISORE-SAN AND OHARA-SAN AS PROTAGONISTS

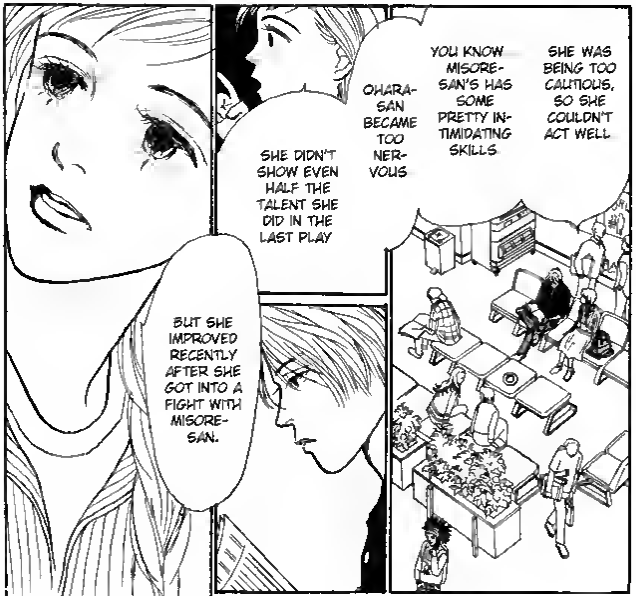

what the heck is she here for?
Don't worry about my account.
Yes.
I'LL WAIT HERE.


I'LL STOP WORKING ON 'THE AGE-CHANGING MOUNTAIN PASS' FOR A WHILE
TOUYA-SAN WILL UNDER-STAND.


IT'S NOT AS SIMPLE AS I THOUGHT.

TOUYA -SAN!


WHAT-'RE YOU DOING HERE?


SHE WAS BEING TOO CAUTIOUS, SO SHE COULDN'T ACT WELL
YOU KNOW MISORE-SAN'S HAS SOME PRETTY IN-TIMIDATING SKILLS
OHARA-SAN BECAME TOO NER-VOUS
SHE DIDN'T SHOW EVEN HALF THE TALENT SHE DID IN THE LAST PLAY
BUT SHE IMPROVED RECENTLY AFTER SHE GOT INTO A FIGHT WITH MISORE-SAN.

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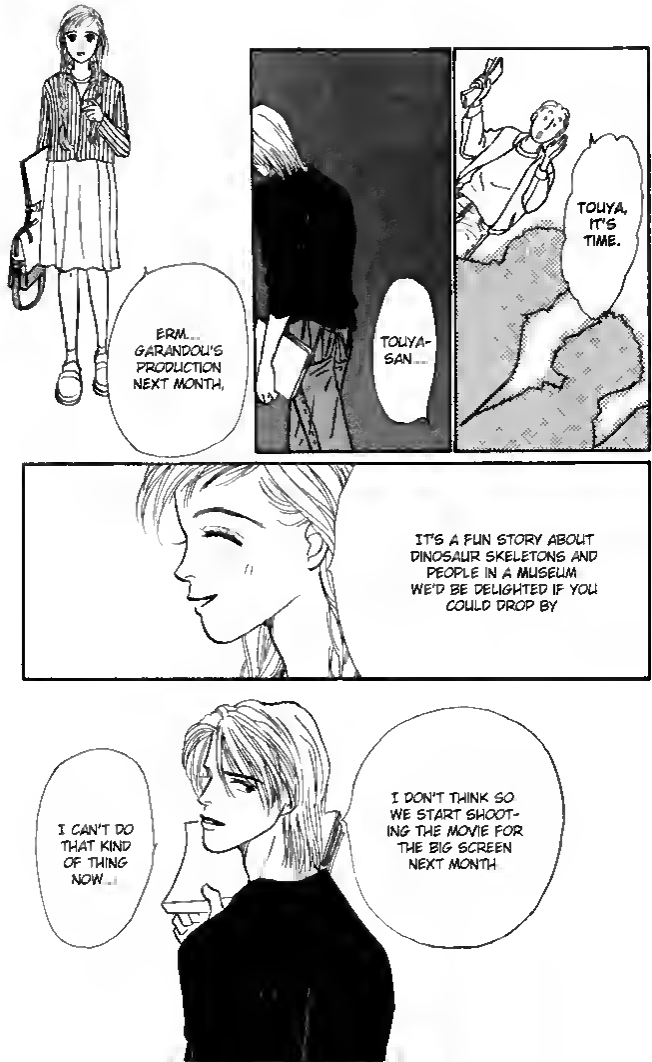
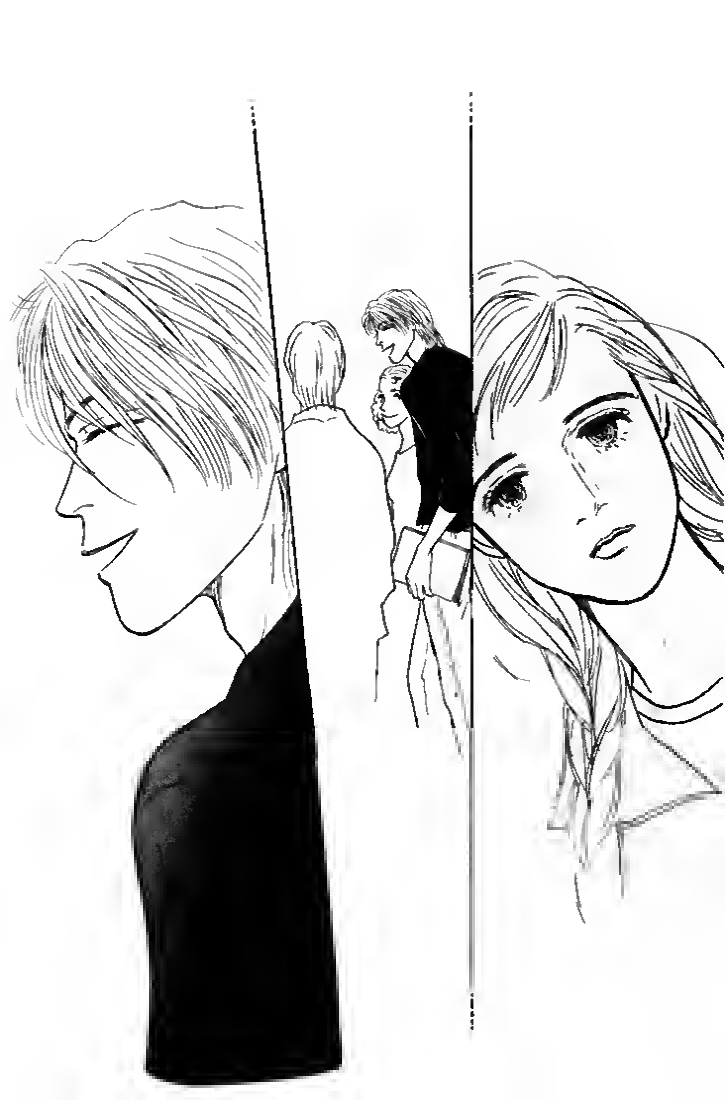
SOMEONE SAID HE MADE THE STAFF CRY WITH HIS STRICTNESS.
HE'S THE BEST FOR PLAYING WITH CAMERA ANGLES HE SEEMS TO KNOW WHICH ANGLES BRING OUT THE BEST EMOTIONS, IN THE SCENE.
IT'S DIRECTOR KODERE KATSUHIKO
THIS PLACE IS FULL OF THE BEST OF THE BEST. WHAT A GREAT INDUSTRY.
THERE ARE MANY THINGS HERE THAT STAGEPLAYS DON'T HAVE, SUCH AS BEING ABLE TO CUT FROM SCENE TO SCENE, CAMERA ANGLES ..

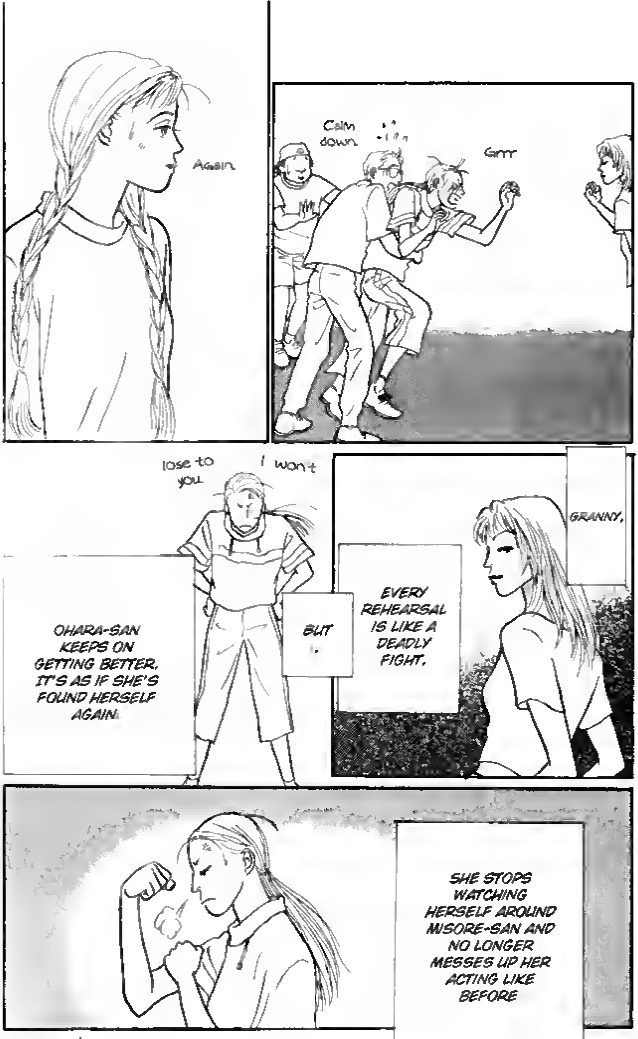

ERM... GARANDOU'S PRODUCTION NEXT MONTH,
TOUYA-SAN...
TOUYA, IT'S TIME.
IT'S A FUN STORY ABOUT DINOSAUR SKELETONS AND PEOPLE IN A MUSEUM WE'D BE DELIGHTED IF YOU COULD DROP BY
I CAN'T DO THAT KIND OF THING NOW...
I DON'T THINK SO WE START SHOOTING THE MOVIE FOR THE BIG SCREEN NEXT MONTH



NO-THING
LET'S GO
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU'RE LOOKING SPIRIT-LESS
CHIEF
OUR TROUPE'S MEMBERS ARE FREE TO ACT FOR OTHER TROUPES, OR EVEN TO GO ON TV, RIGHT?
WHAT MADE YOU COME UP WITH THAT POLICY?
THE WIND
THE WIND?

SOMETIMES WE'VE GOT TO OPEN THE WINDOW AND LET THE WIND FLOW IN
WE SHOULDN'T KEEP PLAYING WITH THE SAME FACES, IN THE SAME PLACE, OVER AND OVER WE NEED SOME FRESH AIR
IT'S BOUND TO HAPPEN
BUT WE'LL GET SOME-ONE NEW IN EVENTUALLY.
WHAT IF PEOPLE JUMP OUT OF THE WINDOW?
YOU MIGHT BE SORRY SOME-DAY WHEN YOU LOSE SOMEONE IMPORTANT.
YOU WON'T HOLD BACK THOSE WHO'RE LEAVING.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

THE DINOSAUR SKELETONS
THE SIZE OF
ERM
JUST THE LEGS, I MEAN...
THE STAGE LAYOUT?
I ALWAYS GET STUCK HERE
THE STAGE IS NOT WIDE ENOUGH TO USE THE PROPS, TO SHOW THE DINOSAUR'S SIZE.
WHEN I WATCH THE REHEARSAL, I PICTURE THE STAGE IN MY HEAD.
FOR A DINOSAUR THAT BIG, IF WE STAND IN FRONT OF IT, ALL WE'LL SEE ARE IT'S LEGS.
PAT
PAT
NO! OHARA-SAN!
GREAT JOB!


Again.
Calm down.
Grrr
I won't lose to you.
GRANNY,
EVERY REHEARSAL IS LIKE A DEADLY FIGHT.
BUT
OHARA-SAN KEEPS ON GETTING BETTER. IT'S AS IF SHE'S FOUND HERSELF AGAIN.
SHE STOPS WATCHING HERSELF AROUND MISORE-SAN AND NO LONGER MESSES UP HER ACTING LIKE BEFORE

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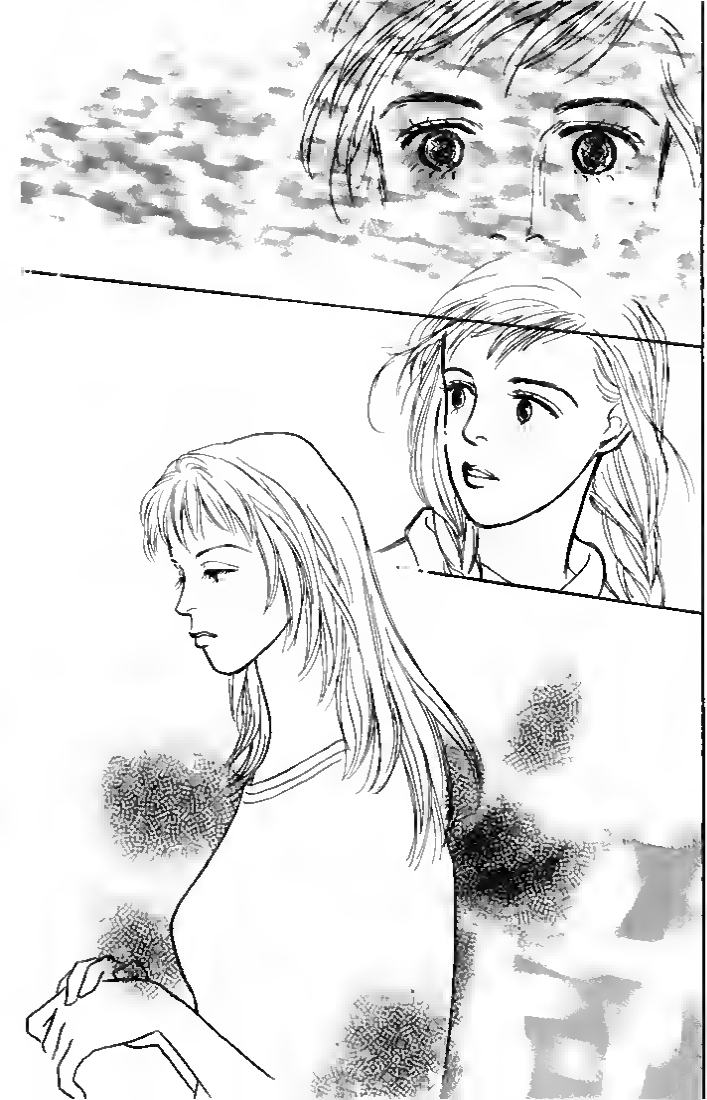

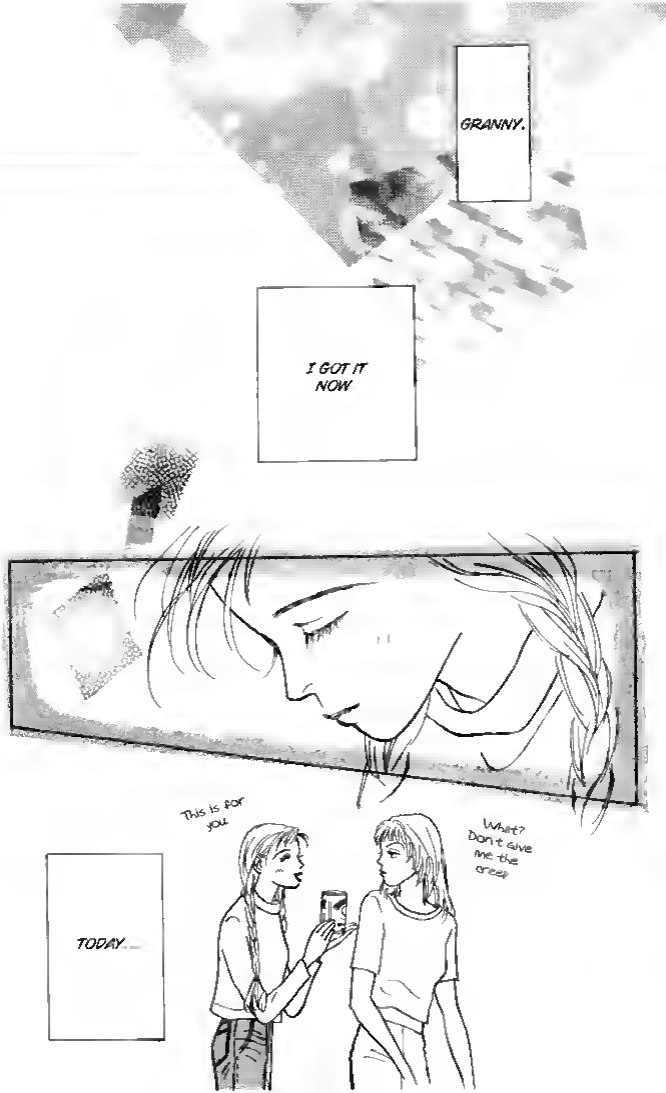
GRANNY.
I GOT IT NOW
TODAY...
This is for you
What? Don't give me the creep

IN ORDER TO NUR-TURE AN ACTOR,

TODAY I'VE LEARNED A NEW LESSON

YOU CAN'T JUST USE SWEET WORDS TO ENCOURAGE THEM

End chapter 14

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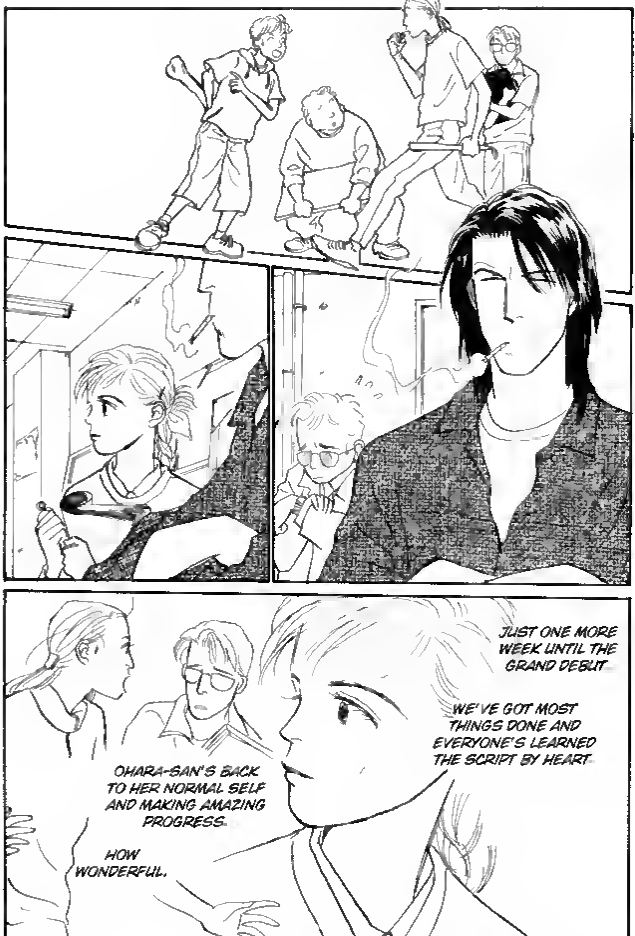
UNIT 15


JUST ONE MORE WEEK UNTIL THE GRAND DEBUT.
WE'VE GOT MOST THINGS DONE AND EVERYONE'S LEARNED THE SCRIPT BY HEART.
OHARA-SAN'S BACK TO HER NORMAL SELF AND MAKING AMAZING PROGRESS.
HOW WONDERFUL.

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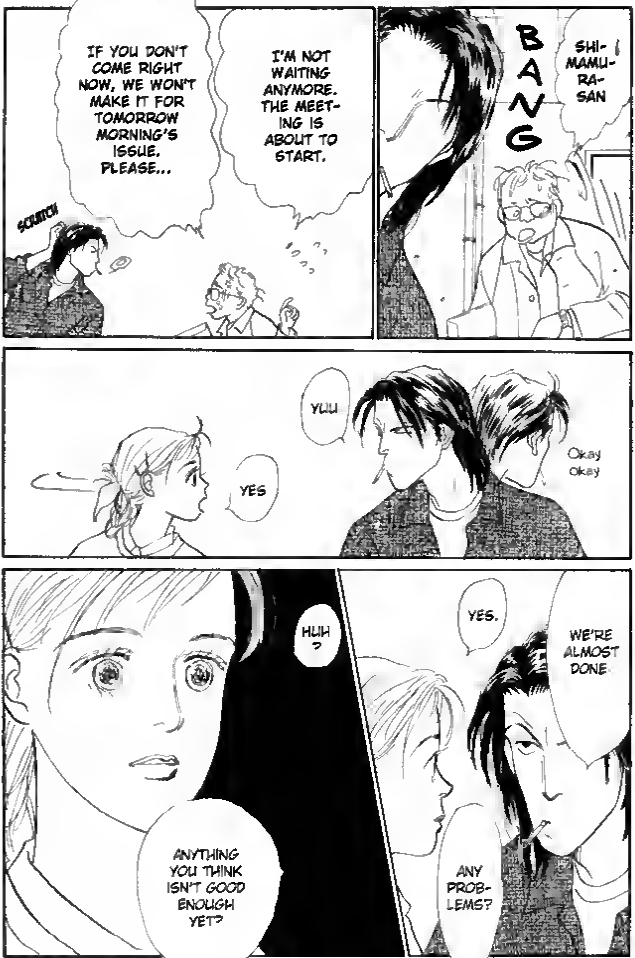
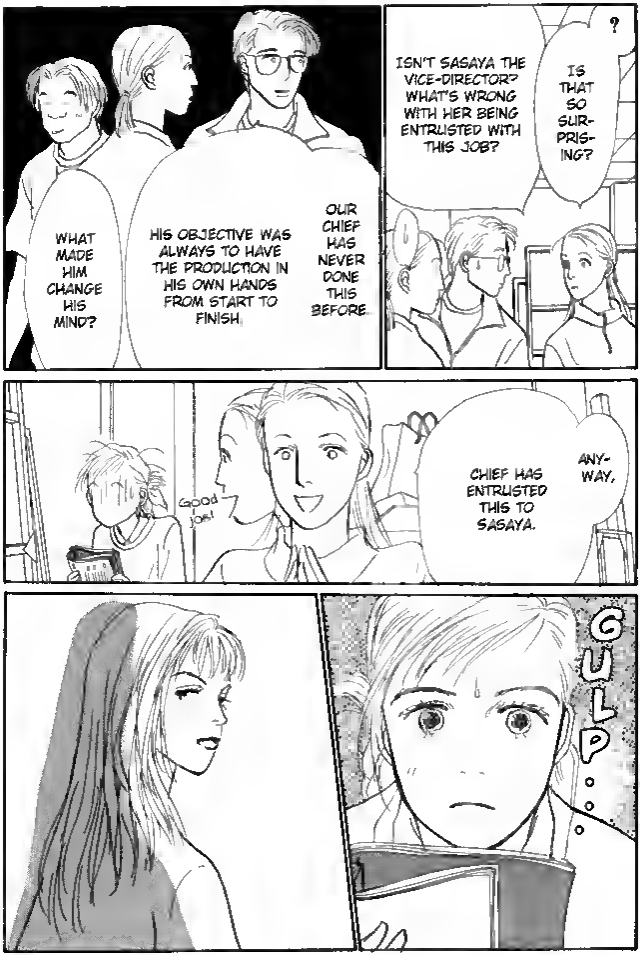
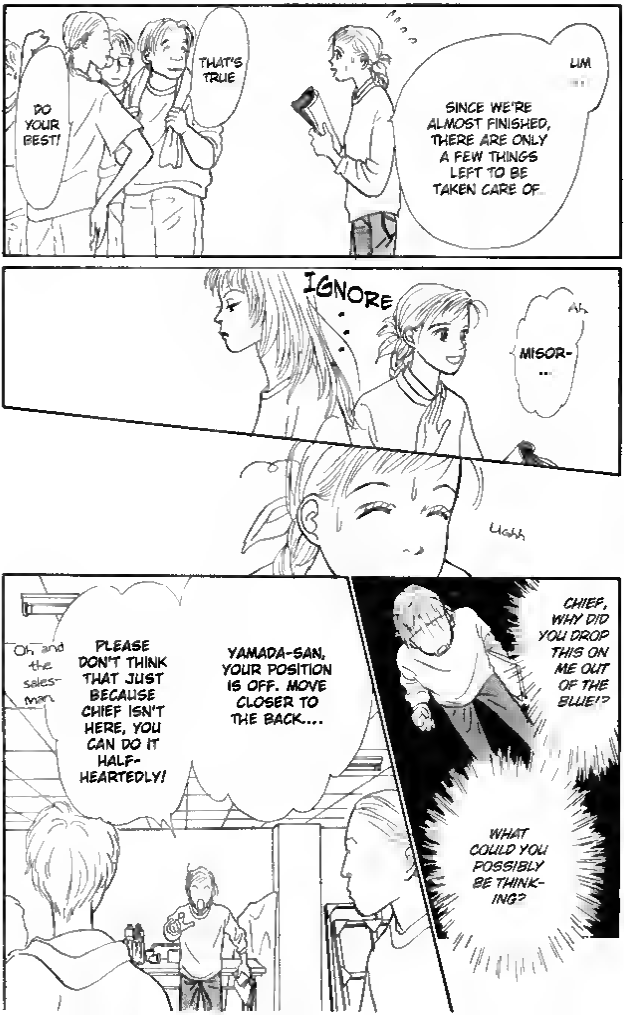
THE SCRIPT ISN'T THE ONLY THING THAT DECIDES WHETHER A PLAY IS GOOD OR NOT.
IT'S GOING TO BE GREAT AGAIN THIS TIME.
THERE'S ALSO THE ABILITY TO MAKE A SCRIPT COME TO LIFE,
THE POWERFUL DIRECTING THAT BRINGS OUT EVERYONE'S TALENT.
I'M GREEN WITH ENVY.
DARN IT...
BUT I TOO WILL SOMEDAY HAVE THAT "SENSE", BRINGING ME CLOSER TO WHERE THE DIRECTOR IS
I MUST KEEP MY HOPE UP.
Grip


IF YOU DON'T COME RIGHT NOW, WE WON'T MAKE IT FOR TOMORROW MORNING'S ISSUE. PLEASE...
I'M NOT WAITING ANYMORE. THE MEETING IS ABOUT TO START.
SCRATCH
BANG
SHIMAMURA-SAN
YUU
YES
Okay Okay
HUH?
YES.
WE'RE ALMOST DONE
ANY PROBLEMS?
ANYTHING YOU THINK ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH YET?

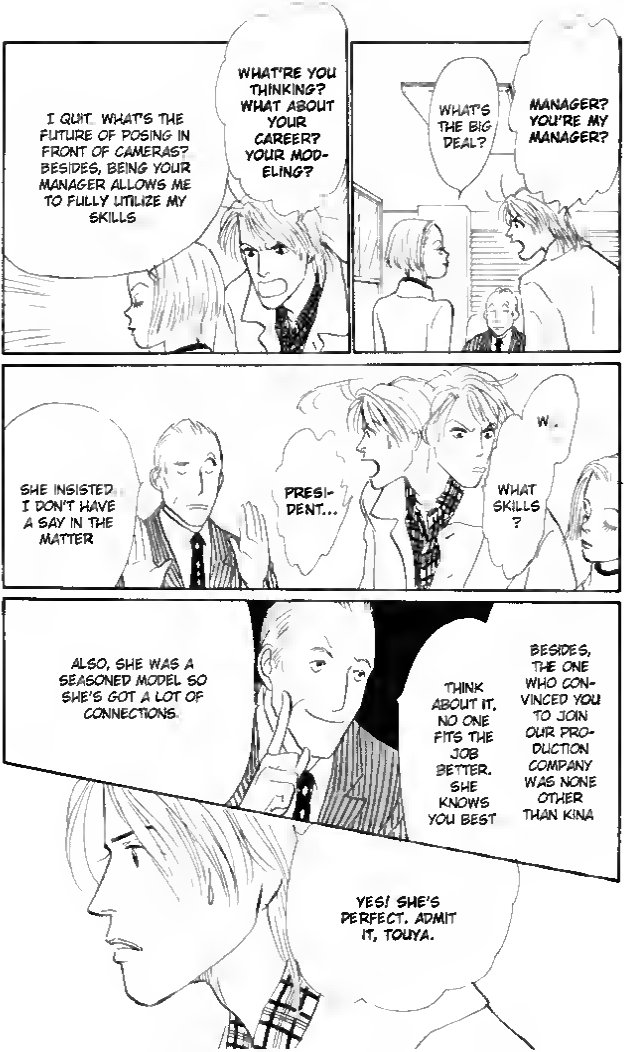
I HAVE TWO POINTS.
THE THUNDER SOUND EFFECT AND THE SALESMAN'S MOVEMENT
GUYS,
I'LL LOCK MYSELF UP TO WRITE TV SCRIPTS. SO I'LL LEAVE THE DIRECTING OF THIS PLAY TO SASAYA YUU.
IT'S ONE WEEK UNTIL THE OPENING. WORK HARD, EVERYONE

C-CHIEF.
WHAT WAS THAT?
CHIEF!
I'LL DROP BY BEFORE THE OPENING DATE AND WATCH THE DRESS REHEARSAL
Quick
SERIOUSLY?
SHIMAMURA-SAN
EVEN THOUGH IT'S 90% COMPLETED,
TO HAVE SOMEONE ELSE RUN HIS OWN PRODUCTION..


WHAT MADE HIM CHANGE HIS MIND?
HIS OBJECTIVE WAS ALWAYS TO HAVE THE PRODUCTION IN HIS OWN HANDS FROM START TO FINISH.
OUR CHIEF HAS NEVER DONE THIS BEFORE.
ISN'T SASAYA THE VICE-DIRECTOR? WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER BEING ENTRUSTED WITH THIS JOB?
IS THAT SO SURPRISING?
?
ANYWAY,
CHIEF HAS ENTRUSTED THIS TO SASAYA.
Good job!
GULP...

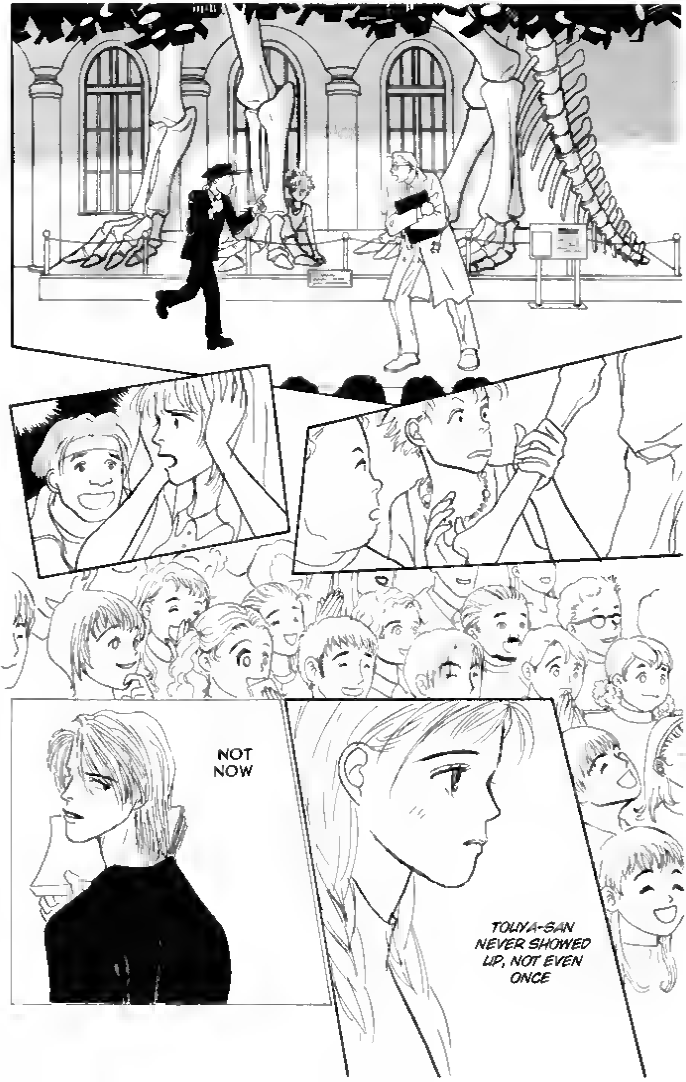

DO YOUR BEST!
THAT'S TRUE
SINCE WE'RE ALMOST FINISHED, THERE ARE ONLY A FEW THINGS LEFT TO BE TAKEN CARE OF
IGNORE
MISOR-
Ugh
Oh, and the sales-man
PLEASE DON'T THINK THAT JUST BECAUSE CHIEF ISN'T HERE, YOU CAN DO IT HALF-HEARTEDLY!
YAMADA-SAN, YOUR POSITION IS OFF. MOVE CLOSER TO THE BACK....
CHIEF, WHY DID YOU DROP THIS ON ME OUT OF THE BLUE!?
WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY BE THINK-ING?

SAM AND ICHIRO, SIT FURTHER APART.
DO IT MORE SLOWLY. TRY TO UP BUILD THE SENSE OF SUSPENSE.
YOU OPENED THE SUITCASE TOO QUICKLY.
HEY, HEY
THIS IS..!
STRICTER THAN OUR CHIEF!
WHAT ?
SMILE
MY NAME IS KITASAWA KINA FROM NOW ON I'M ICHII TOUYA'S BUSINESS MANAGER NICE TO MEET YOU!

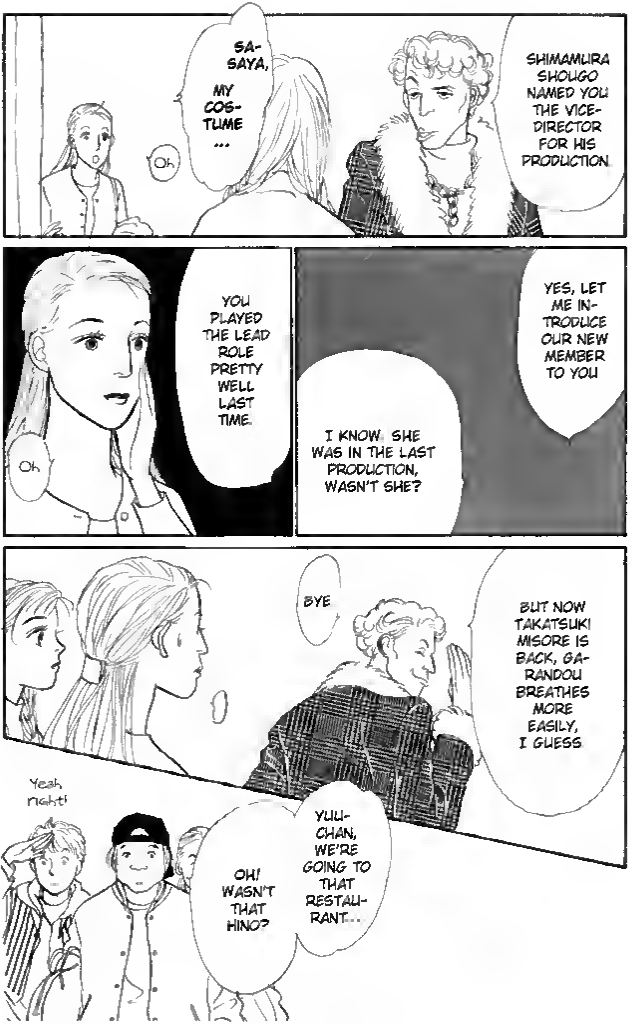

I QUIT. WHAT'S THE FUTURE OF POSING IN FRONT OF CAMERAS? BESIDES, BEING YOUR MANAGER ALLOWS ME TO FULLY UTILIZE MY SKILLS
WHAT'RE YOU THINKING? WHAT ABOUT YOUR CAREER? YOUR MODELING?
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
MANAGER? YOU'RE MY MANAGER?
SHE INSISTED. I DON'T HAVE A SAY IN THE MATTER
PRESIDENT...
W.
WHAT SKILLS?
ALSO, SHE WAS A SEASONED MODEL SO SHE'S GOT A LOT OF CONNECTIONS.
THINK ABOUT IT. NO ONE FITS THE JOB BETTER. SHE KNOWS YOU BEST
BESIDES, THE ONE WHO CONVINCED YOU TO JOIN OUR PRODUCTION COMPANY WAS NONE OTHER THAN KINA
YES! SHE'S PERFECT. ADMIT IT, TOUYA.

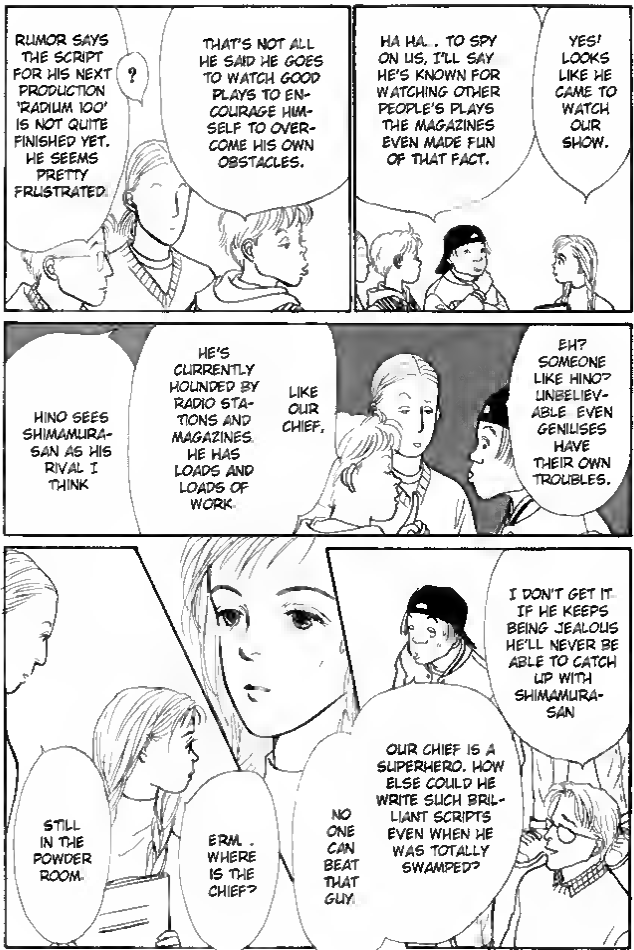
WHAT'S THERE TO BE UPSET ABOUT, TOUYA?
YOUR SCHEDULE WAS A MESS BEFORE BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T HAVE A FULL-TIME MANAGER THAT'S GOING TO CHANGE NOW.
BUT, DOES IT HAVE TO BE YOU?
HEY! JUST AS THE PRESIDENT SAID, NO ONE SUITS THE JOB BETTER THAN ME.
EVERYTHING TO DO WITH TOUYA WILL GO THROUGH ME.
Here
SUCH AS THE MAIL STUFFED IN YOUR APARTMENT'S MAILBOX.
HMPH. YOU BARGED IN WITHOUT PERMISSION AGAIN.
YOU GO STRAIGHT TO BED ONCE YOU REACH HOME, DON'T YOU?
YOU PROBABLY NEVER REALLY CHECK YOUR MAILBOX I TOOK CARE OF ALL THAT JUNK MAIL FOR YOU.

I ALREADY SAID I COULDN'T MAKE IT
GARAN -DOU'S TICKET
WHAT ?
HOW CAN YOU AFFORD THE TIME? THROW THESE TICKETS AWAY
SURE YOUR SCHEDULE IS PACKED.
*Sign The Dinosaurs Bones Shimamura Shougos Garandou Company


NOT NOW
TOLIYA-SAN NEVER SHOWED UP, NOT EVEN ONCE

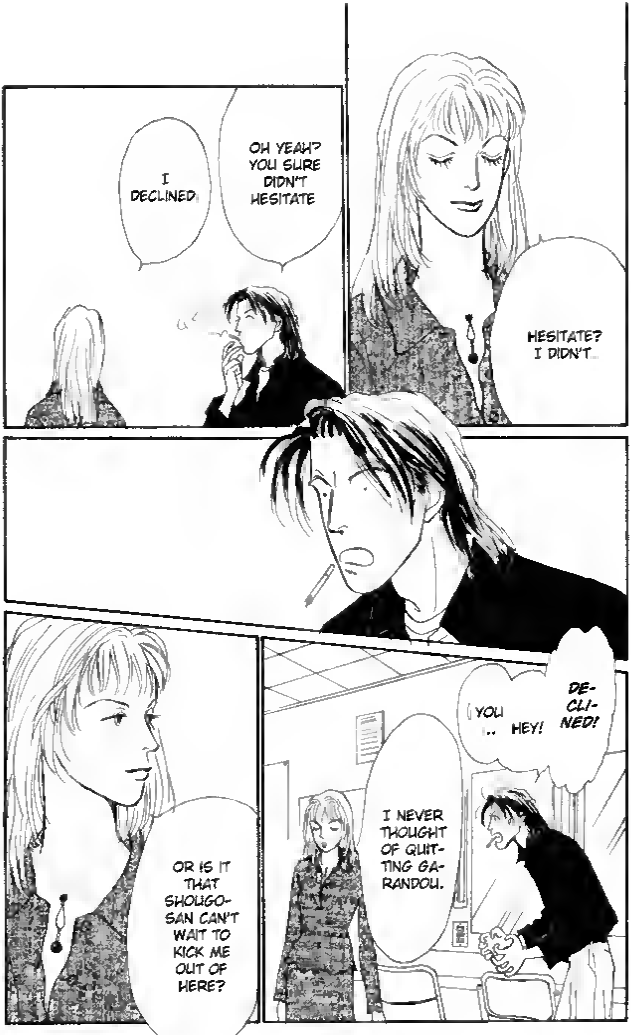
COULD IT BE THAT...
BEFORE, HE'D AT LEAST DROP BY ONCE IN A WHILE, NO MATTER HOW BUSY HE WAS.
IT WAS ON THE WAY, SO I JUST STOPPED BY.
YOU CAME TOO? THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
HINO-SAN!
EEP
EH?
THOUGH... LOOKS LIKE HE HAS HIGH HOPES FOR YOU.


SHIMAMURA SHOUGO NAMED YOU THE VICE-DIRECTOR FOR HIS PRODUCTION
SA-SAYA, MY COS-TUME ...
Oh
YES, LET ME IN-TRODUCE OUR NEW MEMBER TO YOU
I KNOW. SHE WAS IN THE LAST PRODUCTION, WASN'T SHE?
YOU PLAYED THE LEAD ROLE PRETTY WELL LAST TIME.
Oh
BUT NOW TAKATSUKI MISORE IS BACK, GA-RANDOU BREATHES MORE EASILY, I GUESS
BYE
YUU-CHAN, WE'RE GOING TO THAT RESTAU-RANT...
OH! WASN'T THAT HINO?
Yeah, right!


RUMOR SAYS THE SCRIPT FOR HIS NEXT PRODUCTION 'RADIUM 100' IS NOT QUITE FINISHED YET. HE SEEMS PRETTY FRUSTRATED.
?
THAT'S NOT ALL HE SAID HE GOES TO WATCH GOOD PLAYS TO ENCOURAGE HIMSELF TO OVERCOME HIS OWN OBSTACLES.
HA HA . TO SPY ON US, I'LL SAY HE'S KNOWN FOR WATCHING OTHER PEOPLE'S PLAYS THE MAGAZINES EVEN MADE FUN OF THAT FACT.
YES! LOOKS LIKE HE CAME TO WATCH OUR SHOW.
HINO SEES SHIMAMURA-SAN AS HIS RIVAL I THINK
HE'S CURRENTLY HOUNDED BY RADIO STATIONS AND MAGAZINES. HE HAS LOADS AND LOADS OF WORK.
LIKE OUR CHIEF.
EH? SOMEONE LIKE HINO? UNBELIEVABLE EVEN GENIUSES HAVE THEIR OWN TROUBLES.
STILL IN THE POWDER ROOM.
ERM . WHERE IS THE CHIEF?
NO ONE CAN BEAT THAT GUY.
OUR CHIEF IS A SUPERHERO. HOW ELSE COULD HE WRITE SUCH BRILLIANT SCRIPTS EVEN WHEN HE WAS TOTALLY SWAMPED?
I DON'T GET IT. IF HE KEEPS BEING JEALOUS HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO CATCH UP WITH SHIMAMURA-SAN

I'LL BRING THIS TO HIM. PLEASE GO AHEAD TO THE RESTAURANT.
Okay
Takatsuki
OH... NOTHING.
OHARA-SAN.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
Takatsuki
Takatsuki from STUDIO J
DON'T DO SOMETHING YOU'LL REGRET.

DON'T YOU WANT TO STAND ON HIS STAGE?
KISHIWADA KYOUTA ASKED YOU TO JOIN HIS TROUPE, DIDN'T HE?
REGRET ?
!
WHY!?
KISHI-WADA, THAT FAMOUS ACTOR
NEWS TRAVELS FAST IN AN INDUSTRY THIS TIGHT.
WHAT'RE YOU HESI-TATING FOR?

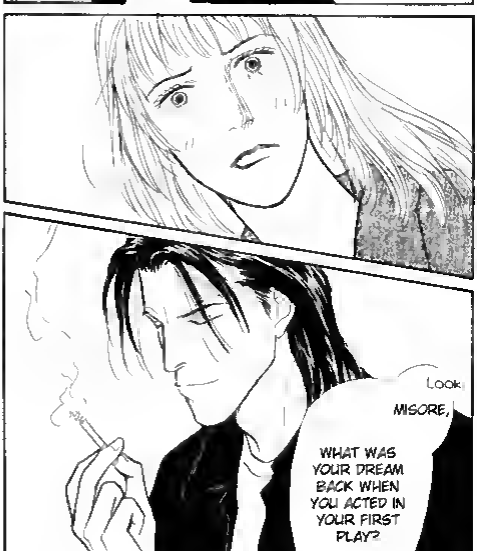

I DECLINED.
OH YEAH? YOU SURE DIDN'T HESITATE
HESITATE? I DIDN'T...
DE-CLI-NED!
YOU... HEY!
I NEVER THOUGHT OF QUIT-TING GA-RANDOU.
OR IS IT THAT SHOUGO-SAN CAN'T WAIT TO KICK ME OUT OF HERE?

かきおろし

夜ふかし大好きっ!

ケーブルTVやらWOWOWやら真夜中にみたい映画を放送したりするのよね

んでついつい見ちゃったりするわけ朝まで。



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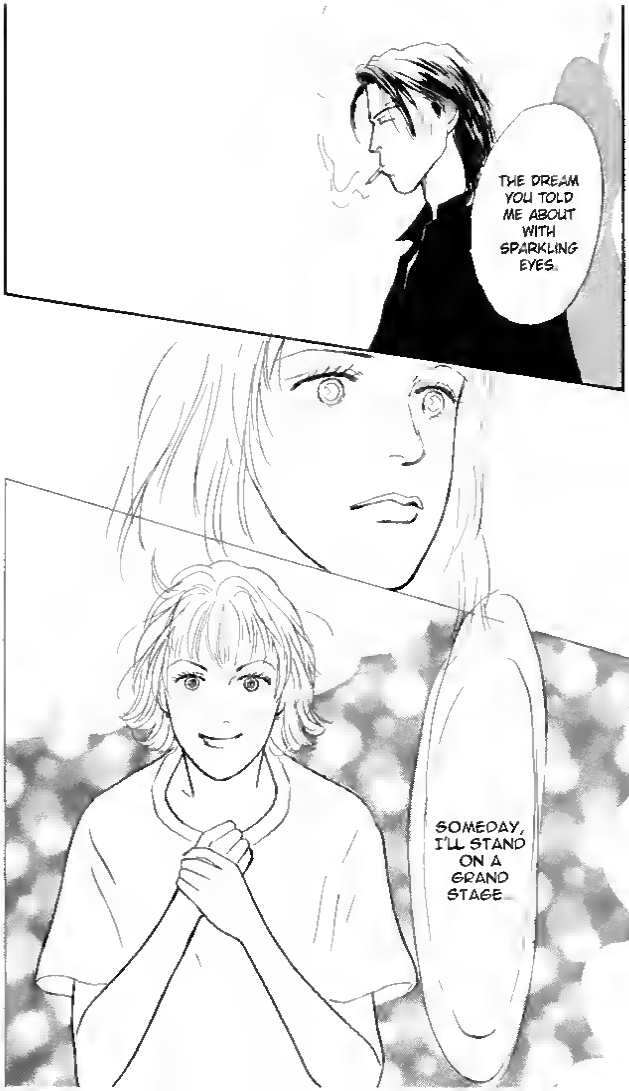
THE DREAM YOU TOLD ME ABOUT WITH SPARKLING EYES.
SOMEDAY, I'LL STAND ON A GRAND STAGE...

SORRY, MISORE
AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO WILL BUILD THAT STAGE FOR ME?
BUT I..
SIMPLY HAVE NO INTEREST IN MAKING COMMERCIAL THEATER
AND, THERE ARE LIMITS TO THE PRODUCTIONS THAT A SMALL TROUPE LIKE THIS CAN MAKE.
BUT YOU..
YOU HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BECOME A GREAT STAR

DON'T CONFINE YOURSELF TO THE SMALL SANDBOX OF A TINY TROUPE
YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO AMPLIFY YOUR TALENT AS AN ACTRESS
OR DON'T YOU HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF?

YOU'LL ONLY BE DEVALUING YOURSELF IF YOU STAY IN GARANDOU FOREVER

BANG
!
!
WHAT HAVE WE GOT HERE? EAVES-DROP-PING?
Sorry
Er

HUH
I...
I CAN'T DO IT LIKE YOU.
KAEN
THIS ISN'T JUST ABOUT NOT HOLDING BACK TROUPE MEMBERS YOU'RE DELIBERATELY CHASING HER OUT.
HEY, HEY, DON'T MAKE ME SOUND LIKE A BAD GUY
COME ON! IT'S TRUE!
MISORE-SAN IS GARANDOU'S PRIMA
AND SHE LOVES OUR TROUPE

.....
WILL SHE REALLY BE CONTENT TO JUST STAY HERE...?
BUT IS THIS ...?
IF SOMEONE HAS A CHANCE TO FLY, SHOULDN'T WE ENCOURAGE THAT PERSON TO SEE MORE OF THE WORLD?
THIS PLACE IS FULL OF THE BEST OF THE BEST.
WHAT A GREAT INDUS-TRY,
IN-DEED

WHAT IF THAT PERSON FORGETS EVERY-THING ABOUT THE THE-ATER?
EVEN THOUGH WE PROM-ISED..
WHAT IF THAT PERSON DOESN'T COME BACK..
I ALWAYS THOUGHT TOUYA-SAN WOULD NEVER QUIT THEATER
BUT...
TOUYA?
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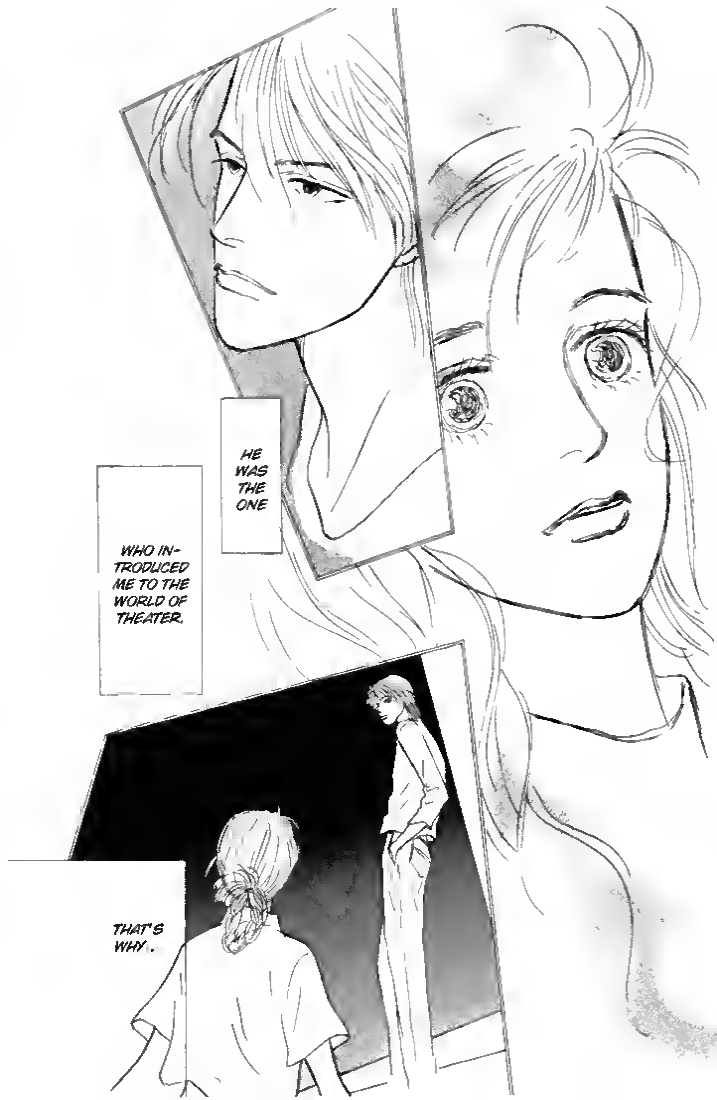
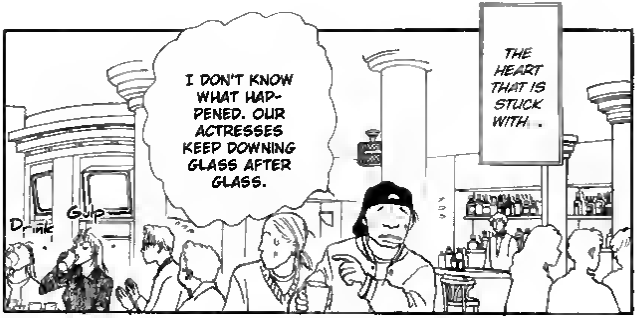
THE TOUYA-SAN RIGHT NOW PROBABLY DOESN'T HAVE ANY THOUGHTS OF THEATER IN HIS HEAD ANY-MORE
JUST AS KINA-SAN SAID, HE'LL BECOME MORE POPU-LAR, MORE FAMOUS
HIS PROMISE TO ME WON'T MEAN ANYTHING
NO MATTER HOW...
I DEVOTE MYSELF TO MAKING A PLAY FOR TOUYA-SAN,
IF HE DOESN'T...
THEN PICK SOMEONE ELSE
!
IT'S GOT TO BE TOUYA-SAN!
WHY?

WHY?
WHAT YOU WANT IS THE ACTOR NAMED "ICHII TOUYA',
OR DID YOU DO ALL THAT -.
BECAUSE YOU ARE IN LOVE WITH TOUYA?

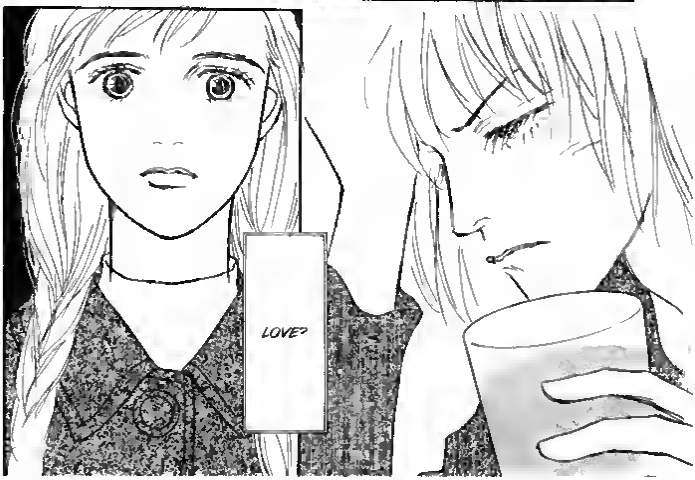

HE WAS THE ONE
WHO INTRODUCED ME TO THE WORLD OF THEATER.
THAT'S WHY.

I'D LIKE TO BRING HIM BACK TO THEATER AT ALL COST.
WITH MY OWN STRENGTH
WITH MY OWN HANDS
SO THAT HE'LL BE

BY MY SIDE ...
HELP!!
AH, CHIEF!


I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. OUR ACTRESSES KEEP DOWNING GLASS AFTER GLASS.
THE HEART THAT IS STUCK WITH .
Drink
Gulp

Gulp!
Who cares about flowers!?
You think you can kick me out that easily!?


LOVE?

AREN'T YOU THE ONE WHO WILL BUILD THAT STAGE FOR ME?
LOVE?

AH..
GRANNY ...
THAT'S WHY...
I WAS UPSET ...
WHY..

UNIT 15 - End